

# Industrial Worker

#1571 vol91no5

June 1994

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## 1st National Strike in 15 years

## Teamsters Last Hurrah?

The Teamsters Union – facing bankruptcy later this year, plagued by internal power struggles, and under the thumb of a government board – called a partial strike against an industry amply prepared to handle it. The strike, the Teamsters first nationwide effort since 1979, began April 6 and continues past the April 23 agreement to go to federal mediation.

Primary contract issues are expansion of part-time or casual work, concessions in wages for new-hires and part-timers, and increased diversion of over-the-road loads to rail transport. Mediation is a refuge for a union in retreat looking to save face. Instead of "Two-Tier" Carey the image can be spun that the "government made us do it".

Almost 10% of the unions membership, work in the over the road, less than truckload, sector of the transportation industry. Some 70 to 80,000 of these Teamsters went on strike against the 22 companies which are members of Trucking Management Inc. The major players in TMI are the industries giants – Yellow, Consolidated, Roadway and American Freightways. Remaining at work or returning to work were Teamsters working at smaller companies which signed side agreements; and the non-union workers at subsidiary companies, the so-called "double-breasted" firms. Non-unionized workers account for 30% of this freight. From the beginning the Teamsters conceded their strongest weapon – industry wide (or wider) solidarity.

The Teamsters Union, once the largest in the country with over 2,000,000 members, now numbers about 1,300,000 with a growing percentage outside its base in transportation. The companies are seeking to push wages down from about \$18 to the \$9 an hour level the Teamsters union has been conceding in warehouses, hospi-



**Ron Carey – Teamsters head into mediation, bankrupt & in need of new strategies.**

tals and other new, less publicized contracts. Shreds of "job security" are offered to an aging unionized workforce many of whom will retire within five or six years; in return for half-waged, job-insecurity for new workers.

Striker comments reflect the same concerns heard among Staley and Caterpillar workers: that these concessions battles are an attempt by corporations to "make us a third world country." "It's an all out attack on the middle class," and "No one's going to have a decent job anymore. What's going to happen to our kids comin' up."

The Teamsters are financially troubled. One week before the 80,000 member nationwide strike began the Teamsters called off an 80 member bus driver strike in Los Angeles for lack of strike funds. In 1991 strike benefits were increased from \$50 a week to \$200 without a way to raise new money. The union also loses millions of dollars a year on general operations.

Internal power struggles pit the reformers who control the presidents office and international executive board against an old guard with a power base in the regional Conference structures. In February the old guard actively organized against a one day strike called against UPS. In March a proposed 25% dues increase failed by a three to one margin prompting Carey and crew to begin implementing plans to dismantle the Conferences. A three member government board, including ex-CIA

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## "Missionaries" No Friends of Workers

# AFL-CIA Agents Invade Russia

By Renfrey Clarke  
MOSCOW

Few people in the international labor movement would deny that trade unions in rich countries have an obligation to help their counterparts in poorer nations, or in countries where labor organizations are having to be rebuilt after periods of dictatorship.

On this score, the major US trade union body, the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) might seem to be playing an exemplary role in Russia today.

For several years now the AFL-CIO has maintained an office and a team of organizers in Moscow. Funding has been provided for a research and education foundation in which US union activists and academic specialists in the field of labor relations collaborate with Russian colleagues in providing services to local unions. Money has even been found to pay the salaries of labor organizers working to set up new unions in provincial areas.

It may therefore seem strange that among the organizations that make up the great bulk of the Russian labor movement, the AFL-CIO's operations have aroused undisguised anger. Even among the Russian unions that have worked most closely with the AFL-CIO, the American labor missionaries are viewed as a very mixed blessing. Letters have been sent by these unions to AFL-CIO headquarters in Washington, complaining bitterly about the way programs have been implemented.

This dissatisfaction, however, should not really be a source of surprise. While the AFL-CIO has an obligation to give practical help, it is sadly unqualified to issue recommendations on how to build labor unions. Accepting the AFL-CIO's advice on strategy and tactics is like taking boxing lessons from a fighter who has suffered 50 knock-outs in 50 bouts. After dropping steadily over many years, the AFL-CIO's membership is now down to 14 million--only around 10 per cent of the US workforce.

Despite its failures at home, the AFL-CIO has an astonishing ability to fund assistance to foreign unions. This assistance is currently running at levels of US\$30 million a year--almost half the AFL-CIO's total budget, and in strong contrast to the

meager \$1.5 million a year the union federation reportedly spends on organizing in the United States.

The paradox is explained by the fact that virtually all of the funds the AFL-CIO spends on international union assistance do not come from American unionists at all, but from the US government. Much of this money is channelled through the privately-run, extreme right-wing National Endowment for Democracy, while other sums are direct grants from the US federal budget via the US Agency for International Development. Needless to say, the money has a political price. In order to keep the funds flowing, the AFL-CIO operatives in foreign countries have to strive to build the kind of national labor movements the US government would want.

The AFL-CIO's operation in Russia is clearly among the most extensive and best-funded of its foreign ventures. For several years now, official AFL-CIO representative in Russia Tom Bradley has been working in a well-equipped office in central Moscow. A recent leaflet issued by Bradley and detailing the activities of his organization (known formally as the Free Trade Union Institute, Moscow) lists a total of five non-Russian staff. The total number of Russian citizens employed by the institute and its programs is probably at least 40.

According to Bradley's leaflet, the American trade unions have been among the financial supporters of the newspaper *Delo*, which began appearing early in 1993. Paying unusually well for stories despite having only a small print run, *Delo* concentrates on issues of interest to labor activists.

The AFL-CIO-funded program "Organizers," now well established, has several dozen paid staff in major industrial regions and Moscow. In collaboration with Bradley's institute, the American Federation of Teachers conducts seminars for Russian school teachers on the teaching of democracy and the role of teachers' unions. The AFL-CIO is also a partner with US mine operators and the US Mine Safety and Health Administration in a program to make Russian coal mines safer and more productive. Finally, last June saw the setting up of the AFL-CIO's most ambitious project in

– continued on page 9 –

# International Opposition to Hydro-Quebec

by Anne Petermann  
Burlington, VT IWW

An international day of action against Hydro-Quebec, the mega-development project which will dam up huge tracts of northern Quebec wilderness, was held on April 14 in cities in Europe, Australia and North America. Wobblers were major organizers in several places.

Things were kicked off in Burlington Vermont where a coalition of activists, including the Native Forests Network and the Industrial Workers of the World, hung a 40 foot banner which read "Hydro-Quebec, STOP SM-3 Earth First!", from a 100 foot water tower at the University of Vermont. Activists occupied the tower from about 4:30am until 11:30am to bring attention to Hydro-Quebec's plans to begin construction of the Sainte Marguerite project. This project is being opposed by the Innu Coalition for Nitassinan.

At noon over 50 activists gathered in front of the Burlington Square Mall for a rally and street theater and to demand that Hydro-Quebec cancel the Sainte Marguerite-3 Project for which H-Q has reportedly begun construction on Monday

April 18. At this rally, it was revealed to the media that scientists interviewed by CBC radio have proven conclusively that large scale hydro projects cause atmospheric pollution in the form of Carbon Dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Hydro is not clean energy.

In London, England activists from the Native Forest Network (NFN) unfurled a 30 foot bilingual banner in front of the Quebec House. While some of the crowd juggled, drummed and chanted, four representatives of the NFN met with officials of the Delegation Generale du Quebec for over an hour. The NFN presented the Quebec officials an Innu Coalition for Nitassinan list of demands to the Canadian government concerning the SM-3 Project. IWW member Orin Langelle from North America who has been touring on an NFN educational tour in the United Kingdom stated, "A lot was said during the meeting but the bottom line is that Hydro-Quebec plans to enter Innu territory and begin the project tomorrow."

Jake Burbridge, another participant in the meeting said: "The Agent General of

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# Help Build the Industrial Worker

## Hey Wobblies!

Thanks for all the recent help - special thanks to those who sent photos along with their articles - as well as dollars, furniture, news, time.

We've been able to expand and improve the Industrial Worker over the past couple of years because of you. Now we need even more help.

The best, and for many the easiest, thing that can be done is help us get new subscribers. Wobblies

The Industrial Worker and the rest of the alternative press survives on readers buying subscriptions. We need you to subscribe. And if you already subscribe or a member of the IWW: we need you to buy gift subscriptions for friends and co-workers.

And, if you send a list of friends and coworkers with your subscription to our circulation folks in Madison Wisconsin we will send them a free copy of the Industrial Worker and ask them to subscribe.

The George Meany stamp "ballot" in a recent *Wage Slave* has been getting attention. The Kansas based *People's Culture* calls the *Slave* a hilarious antidote to the

slobbering of the mainstream press.

Labor Notes called on readers to vote in the stamp contest and let the Postal Service know whether we want a stamp of the "heroic" or the sunbathing George Meany. Readers wanting to gather votes for the stamp ballot should write our Chicago address. Include a few dollars donation. Send us your filled in ballots and we'll report the results later.

This issue of the *Industrial Worker* continues our exploration of the intersection between ecological and labor issues. This is a continuing focus in response to the recent change in the IWW preamble, and an important issue worldwide.

From Moscow comes coverage of the AFL-CIO's actions in support of capitalist international policy.

A *Wage Slave* exclusive explodes one of the central myths of 20th century American capitalism. If the Wobblies don't do it, no one else is going too.

Special thanks to  
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\*\* in memory of Everett  
Bekken \*\*  
Carlos Cortez \*\* Bigfoot  
Red the Clown \*\*  
Bear \*\* Art Kazar

**\$ put your  
name here\$**

**a scab is a  
scab is a scab**

## Union Scabbing

In a public letter sent March 31, James Boland, President of the Bricklayers and Allied Craftmen AFL-CIO protests the crossing of their union's picket line by the president of the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council.

"...On the morning of March 28 several of the staff of BAC Local 3 were picketing a non-union contractor at the Ferry Building in San Francisco, when the President of the Building Trades Larry Mazzola took his entire staff and attorneys through our picket line and spent two hours meeting behind the line.

"This is a great insult to our union and to the whole concept of picketing, from such a high ranking Labor official."

Boland urges the Council to remove Mazzola from office so he can "find something to do more in keeping with his own beliefs."

## IWW Directory

Job Shop= 5 or more members in workplace  
GMB=General Membership Branch  
IU=Industrial Union Del=Delegate  
GOC= Organizing Committee.

IU 120: Forest Workers  
IU 450: Print & Publishing Workers  
IU 460: Food Processing Workers  
IU 510: Marine Transport Workers  
IU 610: Health Workers  
IU 620: Education Workers  
IU 630: Entertainment Workers  
IU 660: General Distribution Workers  
IU 670: Public Service Workers

### AUSTRALIA

#### NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney Area Group- Del:Ray Elbourne,  
Corner Dittons Ln. & Old Illawara Hwy,  
Sutton Forest NSW 2577.

#### VICTORIA

Melbourne Area Group-POB 1738QGPO  
Melbourne, 3001.

### CANADA

#### MANITOBA

Winnipeg GMB - B. Mackay, PO Box  
3204, GNPO, R3C 4E7

#### ONTARIO

Ottawa GMB-POB 4217 Stn E, K1S 5B2.  
613/231-2922 <indwrk@web.apc.org>

Toronto Group-11 Andrews Ave M6J 1S2.  
416/941-9945 Meets 1st Thurs 7 pm;  
phone for location.

### UNITED KINGDOM

GOC British Isles/IU620 Contact F.Lee,  
Secular Hall 75 Humberstone Gate,  
Leicester LE1 1WB.Tel:0533-661835

IU610 Contact: Harry Girling, c/o Ipswich  
Community Resource Ctr, 16 Old Foundry  
Rd., Ipswich IP4 2DU

IU660 Contact: Ray Carr, 22 Brunswick  
Square, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 5QF

Swindon Region GMB/ IU670 Contact-  
Kevin Brandstatter, 9 Omdurman  
St.Swindon, SN2 1HA; Tel: 0793-610707.

Stuart Croft, Box A, 111 Magdalen  
Rd,Oxford. Davey Garland, Box23, 5 High  
St.Glastonbury Somerset.

York-D.Czunys,13 Wolsley, Y01 5BQ.

### UNITED STATES

#### CALIFORNIA

IU330 Custom Wood Screen Doors -Paul  
Kay, 606 Alamo Pintado #3262, Solvang  
93463(805) 688-0123

IU660 Time Tested Books- 1114 21st St,  
Sacramento 95814. 916/447-5696

Mendocino GMB Judi Bari POB 656 Willits  
95490 707/468-1660. Herb Jager,114  
E.Laurel, Ft. Bragg 95437. 707/937-3457.

San Diego Group- RMR Kroopkin, 2675  
Fletcher Pkwy #211, El Cajon, CA 92020.  
619/460-2907

Santa Cruz GMB-PO Box 534, 95061

<sciww@ucscb.ucsc.edu>

IU450 New Earth Press Job Shop 1921  
Ashby Berkeley 94703 (510)549-0176

IU620 Job Shop UCB Recyclers- 620  
Eshleman B'k'ly 94720 Daniel Widener

IU670 Berkeley Recycling Ctr. Job Shop -  
M. Carlstroem, 2515 Piedmont #8, 94607

Los Angeles GMB- Meets 2nd,4th Sun-  
days. Location call (24hr):213/368-4604.  
Andrew Willett 1136 ArborDell Rd.90041.

IU630 Film Workers -Miguel Sanchez,  
1724 Westmoreland LA 90006 (213)368-  
4604

Sea Dive Job Shop-Colin Dewey,138-A  
Noe St San Francisco 94114. 415/487-  
1751. <patrice@crl.com>

SF Bay Area GMB-1095 Market St. #204,  
94103415/863-WOBS iww@igc.apc.org

### COLORADO

IU450 P&L Printing Job Shop- 2298 Clay,  
Denver 80211. 303/433-1852

Denver/Boulder GMB-2412 E. Colfax,  
80206. Ofc hrs Sat.9-12. (303)388-1065  
Meets 1st Thurs.7pm. Del:Cliff Sundstrom  
910 E.8th Av.#202, 80218. 303/832-7602.  
Brendan Ruiz,POB 370663, 80237-0663

### GEORGIA

Atlanta Group - 340 Elmira Pl, 30307. 404/  
524-1243

### HAWAII

Oahu Group-POB 11928,Honolulu 96822  
Tel:808/247-8584. <annies@igc.apc.org>

### ILLINOIS

Chicago GMB-4043 N.Ravenswood#205  
60613.(312)549-5045. Mt.1st Fri. 7:30pm.

### LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge Group- Steve Donahue 729  
Bungalow Ln 70802.(504)389-9572.

### MARYLAND

Baltimore GMB-R.Bey, Black Shield, Box  
1681, Glen Burnie 21060. 301/367-3024

### MASSACHUSETTS

IU630 GOC - Jim Barclay, 75A Elm St.  
Worcester 01609

### MICHIGAN

SE Mich.GMB/IU630 Workers Stories  
Workers Lives Job Shop-Albert Parsons  
(313)769-0695;Michael Kozura 7252  
Kendal, Dearborn 48126.(313)581-2065

IU670 Ann Arbor Tenants Union Job Shop-  
4001 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor 48109.  
313/763-6876.

### MINNESOTA

Duluth Group-1514 N. 8th Avenue E,  
55805. Del: Jack Rosenquist

### MISSISSIPPI

Gulfport Group-C.G.Streuly601/896-3515

### MONTANA

Butte-Mark Ross 111 W.Quartz 59701.  
(406)782-4465

### NEW YORK

IU 620 Education Workers Organizing  
Bulletin/Central NY Group- PO Box 762,  
Cortland NY 13045 jbekken@igc.apc.org

IU630 Living Theatre Job Shop-POB

20180,NYC,10009-8959.(212)865-3234

IU670 Socialist Party USA Natl Office Job  
Shop- 516 W. 25th St. #404, NYC 10001.  
212/691-0776

Capital District Group-POB 74, Altamont  
NY 12009. (518)861-5627

NYC GMB-Del: Brian Mahoney 1717  
N.Thompson Dr, Bay Shore NY 11706  
516/586-2103; Rochelle Semel, RD 1 Box  
158-B, Hartwick 13348. 607/293-6489

### PENNSYLVANIA

IU630 Boulevard Bingo Job Shop-Tina  
Gaffney (215)821-5622

Lancaster Group-PO Box 2084, 17608

Lehigh Valley GMB-POB 4133 Bethlehem  
18018 (215)253-5057 J.Kelly (215)866-  
5728.

Reading Group-PO Box 8468, 19603.  
Del:Dennis Good (215)921-2459; Rick  
Page (215)562-3487

Philadelphia GMB/ IU450 Duplicators  
Network- 4722 Baltimore Ave. 19143.  
(215)747-0855.

IU660 Wooden Shoe Books Records Job  
Shop-112 S.20th St.19103. (215) 569-  
2477. <ulrike@templevm.bitnet>

IU620 Temple University IWW Group-  
2106 N. Broad St. 19122. Anthony Newkirk  
(215)765-3511.

### SOUTH CAROLINA

IU450 Harbinger Publications Job Shop-  
Merl Truesdale, 18 Bluff Rd. Columbia  
29201. 803/254-9398

### TEXAS

Austin Group - PO Box 49523, 78765.  
512/416-9619

### UTAH

Salt Lake Group - Tony Roehrig, PO Box  
520514, Salt Lake City 84152-0514. 801/  
485-1969

### VERMONT

Burlington Group- Anne Petermann, Orin  
Langelle POB 804, 05402. (802)658-2403.  
<peacejustice@igc.apc.org>

### WASHINGTON

IU450 Street of Crocodiles Letter Press  
Job Shop- PO Box 20610, Seattle 98102.  
206/726-5924

IU460 Fairhaven Co-op Flour Mill Job  
Shop-1115 Railroad Av.Bellingham 98225.

Industrial Transportation Project -Arthur  
Miller, POB 5464, Tacoma 98415-0464

Industrial Environmental Toxicology  
Project-POB 20402, Seattle 98102.

Stan Anderson 206 367-0477  
<helchick@mead.u.washington.edu>

### WISCONSIN

IU450 Lakeside Press Job Shop- 1334  
Williamson, Madison 53703 608/255-  
1800. Delegate: Jerry Chernow

Madison GMB-Box 2605, 53701. (608)  
255-1800.Del:Tim Wong, Jerry Chernow

## Industrial Worker

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#### Topic Editors:

**International News & Book  
Reviews:** POBox 762 Cortland NY  
13045 jbekken@igc.apc.org

**Humor & Cartoons:** Wage Slave,  
PO Box 1217, Madison WI 53701  
huckkono@igc.apc.org

**Toxics Project:** PO Box 20402,  
Seattle WA 98102 (206)367-0477  
helchick@mead.u.washington.edu

**Canadian Labor, Video & Music  
Reviews, Womens Issues:** PO  
Box 4217, Stn E, Ottawa, ON K1S  
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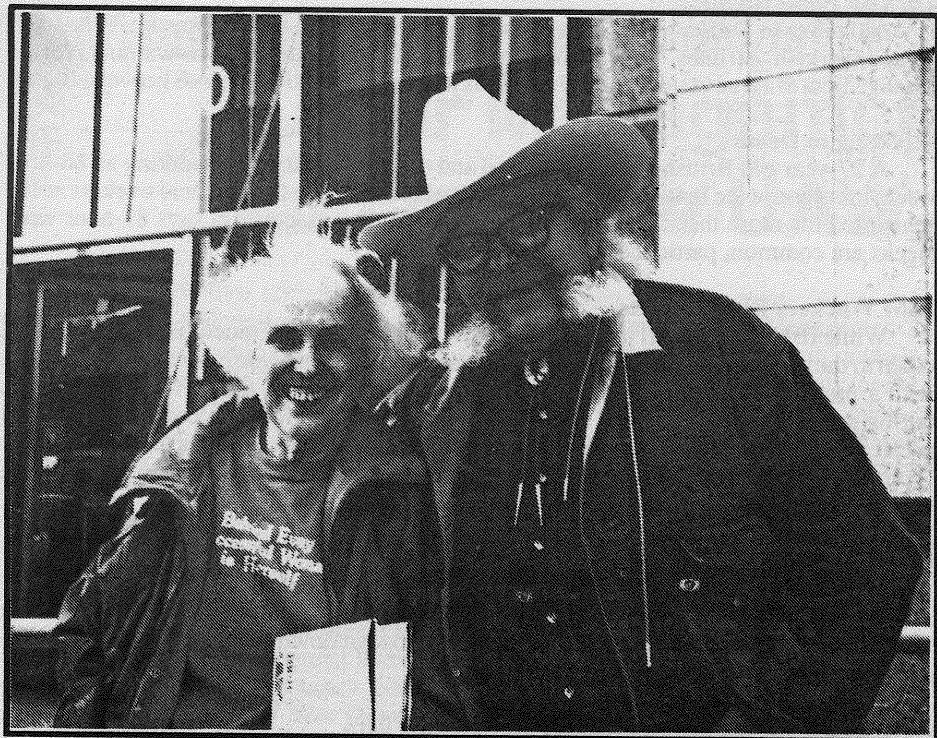
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IWW Elders Ruth Sheridan and Carlos Cortez at Chicago Hydro Quebec demonstration.

## Housing is a Right

FW Eugene Nelson, who IW readers may know as the author of *Break Their Haughty Power* an excellent book reviewed by the IW and for sale through IWW mail order (see [page 11]). FW Nelson of Homes For All, an Oakland California based project, is on a nationwide speaking tour this year to raise consciousness about housing as a right and an end to the landlord system. Homes For All hopes to organize a giant rent strike.

If you are interested in the work of Homes For All or in the possibility of FW Nelson speaking in your town contact:

**Homes For All**  
PO Box 3615  
Oakland CA 94609

The right to a home is as basic as the right to live. Even the birds of the air have a home. Shouldn't humans fare as well as the birds and beasts?

In some ways the world has been making progress toward a happier life for many of its inhabitants. But in many parts of the world, such as the United States, the housing situation has been getting worse and worse. As time passes, fewer and fewer people are able to build or buy a home, or even to rent a decent dwelling. Way back at the end of World War II the United Nations declared in its Universal Declaration of Human Rights that every person on earth had the right to a home. Yet today there are more homeless people than ever before.

The disaster of homelessness is becoming more and more extreme, and we are calling for extreme but desperately needed measures to solve this urgent problem.

What we need is an immediate and gigantic campaign to end the primitive inhuman landlord system and see that every person has a home.



**Around  
Our  
Union**

## TARGETED BY FBI Freed Activist Tours

British Columbia Wobblies, active around forest issues write to inform others in the region that Peg Millett, one of the Earth First! activists known as the "Arizona 5", will headline a roadshow with contemporary folk and a cappella music in June. Millett was released from jail last year, after serving two years of a three-year sentence for aiding and abetting in the destruction of ski lift pylons in Northern Arizona, a deed she undertook to protest the desecration of native American sacred lands.

The roadshow will also include bellydancing, a slide show on the Walbran/Carmanah valleys on Vancouver Island, a video of the spokesperson for the hereditary chief of that area speaking about native sovereignty, and an Earth First! activist who was arrested in the Walbran in 1991 during a blockade and is now one of 41 people being sued by the forest company in a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP).

Millett and the Arizona 5 were targets

of an FBI operation to set up activists for prosecution. If you need more information on defending yourself from government harassment for your labor or other activism get the \$5 book *War At Home* by Brian Glick from South End Press. Available from IWW lit - see page 11.

For more information on the Millett tour, contact:  
Terra Prima!: (604) 383-1560; #618-620 View St, Victoria, BC, Canada V8W 1J6  
Mira Goldberg (604) 380-0102 (phone/fax), email -uc389@freenet.victoria.bc.ca.

### Tentative Schedule

Tuesday, Jun 1 Eugene, OR  
Thursday, Jun 3 Portland, OR  
Saturday, Jun 5 Olympia, WA  
Monday, Jun 7 Seattle, WA  
Wednesday, Jun 9 Tofino, BC  
Friday, Jun 11 Saltspring, BC  
Saturday, Jun 12 Vancouver, BC  
Monday, Jun 14 Victoria, BC  
late June Nelson, BC and Kootenays

## Bingo Case Heads Back to Court

The continuing saga of the Boulevard Bingo workers looks like it won't be over any time in the next few months. The NLRB has issued yet another set of charges against the bingo hall.

In 1992, Boulevard Bingo which is owned and operated by two non profit groups, illegally fired ten workers who were trying to organize a union. The WW filed charges on their behalf, asking for full reinstatement of the workers and payment of back wages totalling \$85,000. On the day the charges were to be heard, a settlement agreement was reached in which the IWW agreed to accept one third of the back pay in exchange for a signed union contract. Shortly after, one of the bingo partners, Pennsylvania Association of Songwriters, Composers and Lyricists PASCAL had its license pulled by the DA's office because of financial funny business. The remaining partner, Allied Air Force, continued to operate the bingo hall two days a week.

We had hoped this would end the matter. Instead, from the day the contract was signed, Allied President Joseph Fillman decided he wouldn't follow those parts he didn't like. Within a few months, the union had filed over sixty grievances for contract violations. Fillman refused to discuss any grievances and refused to allow his supervisors to accept them. He also threatened to fire two Job Shop Delegates because they were filing grievances, and illegally suspended both, to make sure they got the message.

After that Fillman unilaterally changed the days the bingo hall was open to Tuesdays and Wednesdays, effectively removing both Delegates since neither of them can work Tuesdays. This also violated our contract and was illegal under Federal labor law.

Last month, the Feds issued merit findings on those charges over which it had jurisdiction. Other charges, although they were clear violations of our contract, were not violations of statutory labor law. Since the Feds don't have authority to enforce contracts, the NLRB couldn't do anything about them.

Fillman can now settle the matter by agreeing to stop his illegal actions. He has, however showed no sign that he is willing to do this, and we don't believe that he will live up to any agreement he signs. It is obvious to us that, in typical boss fashion, Fillman has no intention, now or in the future, of ever dealing with us in good faith.

As a result, the IWW has asked the NLRB to withdraw our earlier settlement agreement, and take the original charges back to trial. This will mean that the contract will be rendered invalid and the IWW will no longer be officially recognized as the workers bargaining unit. It also means we will be seeking all of the back pay owed. Since PASCAL is no longer operating, we will ask that Allied Air Force, as a joint employer be held responsible for back pay owed by both it and PASCAL.

Of course rather than going through all this legal hassle, it would be much simpler for us to start a good old fashioned direct action campaign and make life hell for Fillman until he gives in. Unfortunately for us, a number of workers at the hall have apparently decided that they have fought long enough and just want the whole thing to be over. While this is understandable, the fight has been dragging on for two years, in the end it will only prolong things. The legal route will take months, and if Allied appeals, years. A good direct action campaign could end this thing in a couple of weeks.

Lehigh Valley GMB Bulletin

## Utah Phillips In Ottawa

Utah Phillips played Ottawa March 19, hosted by the Old Sod Society. A contingent of Wobblies greeted Fellow Worker Utah at the gig. They brought a cake which they had baked in the shape of a banjo, with licorice strings and frets! "IWW" was written in red on the banjo, and "Welcome Utah" was written on the foil wrapper. Utah tended to go for the licorice strings. Utah is an oral historian who keeps the audience mesmerized on labor yarns and tales. He emphasizes an approach to learning not from books, but from people. Their stories are the basis of Utah's songs. In this way, he shares people's stories, organizing tactics, their struggles and issues. His songs are of people fighting back against oppression. Humor is part of his presentation. Never choose living heroes if you need heroes, Utah said; dead heroes can't sell you out. Such jokes were sometimes unsettling to

members of the audience, the majority being liberal folk music fans, with a few labor activists mixed in. Utah had just come from visiting the mine workers in Sudbury, Ontario. He talked about their struggles and other current labor issues, and said that workers should get together in one big union such as the IWW. Several trade union members in the audience expressed appreciation. Utah's method of first drawing a crowd with music, then communicating important ideas through speech and song, is reminiscent of methods used by IWW street speakers in the early 20th century. He shares an incredible amount of information and labor history with the audience.

Ottawa GMB held a community picnic in the park on May 1st. They were joined by members of Ottawa Food Not Bombs, and musicians.

mynor variante

## industrial networks

We form rank and file groups in our workplaces and are stronger than when we are alone. When we can draw on solidarity from others like us, who happen to work in other nearby place then we are stronger still. We are also stronger when we link up with people working in the same industry in other places.

Several IWW networks already exist to help us get together. The contact addresses can be found in the IWW directory on page 2 of every IW. In addition the General Office in San Francisco can help members network by industry.

The volunteer IW collective is ready to assist members in getting information out that would benefit industrial networks. There are many possibilities. Members who would like to put together an industrial focus, from an article to a special section should contact Mike Kozura in Michigan and/or the production group in Chicago.



# Strike Wave Sweeps China

An official report says 250,000 labour disputes have broken out since 1988, including 1,100 during the past two years in the prosperous economic zone of Shenzhen, near Hong Kong. Strikes and numerous incidents of violence have erupted in some factories.

Although the Chinese constitution says China is a socialist state "led by the working class" and the Communist government is said to have eliminated China's "exploiting classes," a survey of foreign-funded companies published in the official magazine *Outlook* shows that exploitation of labour has returned on a scale not seen since the 1920s and 1930s.

Abuses range from illegal employment contracts to arbitrary fines imposed on workers and non-payment for overtime. Many companies have "disregarded China's labour laws" and some have "ignored workers' safety and wantonly infringed on the workers' legitimate rights and interests," according to the magazine.

The survey detailed other abuses, including the case of a boss who locked a

female worker in a dog cage after saying she had stolen shoes from the factory.

Shenzhen's labour bureau has been flooded by complaints--many from migrant workers from poor, distant regions--about unpaid wages, lack of staff dormitories and confiscation of identity cards by employers to stop workers from leaving to seek work elsewhere.

China's federation of trade unions, the only labour organization permitted by the government, is charged with carrying out Communist Party policy--which currently encourages foreign investors to take advantage of cheap Chinese labour. As a result, workers are increasingly turning to unofficial unions to defend their interests. A Hong Kong magazine says more than 800 underground unions have been formed in Guangdong, China's most developed province. Many are said to have the characteristics of secret societies. They are based on personal loyalties and lack formal rules, but are feared by employers and government.

## Turkish Pilots Strike:

660 pilots in Turkey struck for two days beginning April 11, shutting down the state-owned Turkish Airlines. The strike, which was called without prior warning, forced management to agree to stop scheduling pilots to work without rest periods between flights.

## Working to Death

A 27-year-old British doctor collapsed and died in January after working an 86-hour week; in response the British Medical Authority is demanding that medical workers not be scheduled for more than 72 hours a week of work. The association says 83-hour work weeks are common, particularly for junior doctors.

## IBM Workers Block Streets

While IBM is laying off tens of thousands of U.S. workers, French IBM workers have taken to the streets to protest a plan to replace an annual bonus (worth, on average, \$4,000) with a profit-sharing plan. Six hundred IBM workers blocked traffic for several hours during protests against the plan. IBM is just one of several high tech companies seeking greater "flexibility" in work schedules, pay rates and benefits in order to become more "competitive." Now if only our landlords, grocers and banks were willing to extend some of that "flexibility" to us.

## Chilean Bus Drivers Protest

Some 800 striking bus drivers brought 400 vehicles to a halt in Santiago de Chile, April 2. Workers are protesting poor working conditions and demanding that management honor labor codes setting working hours. The protest also shut down traffic between the capital and the region.

## New Computer Discussion List for Rank-and-File

UNITED is an unmoderated, uncensored e-mail discussion group intended for anyone with an interest in the labor movement. Especially welcome are postings related to the following: Reports of labor struggles around the world, The decline of unionism in the U.S., Bringing unions into the Information Age, Modern union communications, The role of unions in local, state and national politics.

Access to UNITED is available via e-mail over the Internet. To subscribe write UNITED-Request@cougar.com with "SUBSCRIBE" in the message text to join. E-mail to: UNITED@cougar.com to submit a posting to UNITED.

## Spain

### Job Cuts Protested

Police baton-charged 600 workers who blocked a railway line on March 16 to protest against plans to cut jobs by 60 percent in a Santana car plant. Several workers were injured as police attacked the protesters in the Andalusian town of Linares and one man was arrested. The protest forced 11 long-distance trains to stop in Linares, with passengers transferring to buses.

Workers were protesting against a "restructuring plan" under which Japan's Suzuki Motor Corp, which owns 84 percent of Santana, will eliminate more than 1,600 of the company's 2,400 jobs. Suzuki threatens to close Santana unless workers agree to job cuts, increased production and a two-year wage freeze. Unions flatly rejected the Suzuki plan, and are planning a series of demonstrations in Linares, where some 65 percent of local jobs depend directly or indirectly on Santana.



Workers protest GATT Seoul

## Lock Out in Sri Lanka

The former CTB (Ceylon Transport Board) workshop at Werahera, Sri Lanka, which was privatized and is now owned by WESCO Engineering (Pvt) Ltd., was shut down February 14, and over 1,200 employees were locked out. The factory was cordoned off with barbed wire. The gates were shut and the entrance guarded by police. The workers demonstrated outside the gate.

The lock out is a sequel to the workers work-to-rule protest that began February 1. The Sri Lankan Independent Trade Union Federation (213 Darmapala Mawatha Colombo 7) is appealing for letters to the Sri Lankan government to intervene to force WESCO to end the lockout. Letters can be sent to: Hon. D.B. Wijetunge, Presidents House, Colombo 1 Sri Lanka; and The Minister of Labour and Vocational Training, Ministry of Labour, Labour Secretariat, Colombo 5, Sri Lanka (Fax 94-1-582938).

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS & VIEWS

### Workers Reject Strike Ban

After South African health care workers launched a series of strikes, the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party urged the Congress of South African Trade Unions to declare a moratorium on strikes until after the elections. Although COSATU is closely tied to the ANC and several union officers stood down to run for office on the ANC ticket, COSATU has rejected the idea of a strike moratorium, insisting that workers' right to strike is a fundamental right.

At present, of course, the ANC is still attempting to woo voters for the elections which will transpire as this issue leaves the printer. It will be interesting to see whether the ANC shows any greater respect for workers' fundamental rights once it takes control of the government.

As the elections approached, the South

African government moved to privatize many of the enormous state enterprises which constitute the heart of the country's industrial economy, thus removing them from the control of a new ANC government. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund advise South Africa to take advantage of wages up to ten times lower than those in Taiwan to concentrate on labor intensive industries for export, including the production of steel, coal, garments and shoes.

COSATU opposes these plans for creating a low-wage export economy. It calls for a 14 percent wage increase to compensate for declining living standards, and a halt to layoffs which have brought unemployment to as much as 50 percent of Black workers.

## Guatemalan Coke Workers Struggle

The struggle at Alimentos y Bebidas Atlantida SA (ABASA), the Coca-Cola bottling franchise in Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, continues. ABASA is a subsidiary of INCASA, of which the president is James Schutt. Coca-Cola International also has a 37 percent stake in INCASA.

Workers began organizing December 7, 1992; management responding by firing 29 union members (the entire executive). Although the Guatemalan government granted the union legal recognition on October 29, 1993, the company has appealed on the grounds that the union has no members within the company (they were all fired).

Coca-Cola headquarters in Atlanta has promised to remain "neutral" in future union organizing activities. However, the company continues to refuse to reinstate the 20 workers.

On February 15, a bomb containing leaflets was thrown at the house of the company's general manager, Mr. Barrascout. The bomb exploded spreading out leaflets which supported the Zapatistas in Mexico. The explosion left a hole in the ground outside the house.

A similar device exploded in the car park inside the plant perimeter which caused minor damage to a few vehicles. Union members, however, have no access to this

area since they have all been dismissed from their jobs.

Barrascout reported the incident to a military base and local judge, claiming that he had been receiving death threats since the formation of the union. On February 17, the judge subsequently issued an arrest warrant for all the union members. The company is also challenging the legal status of the union on the basis that its members were involved in criminal activity.

The International Union of Foodworkers asks unionists to send protests to Coca Cola demanding that it use its influence in the company in which it is a major shareholder to guarantee the rights of employees to form a union and to withdraw criminal accusations against the union members. Please also send a message to the President of Guatemala urging intervention to guarantee justice and safety for the union members and the respect of trade union rights at ABASA. They also request a copy of letters.

Send letters to: Roberto Goizueta, Chairman and CEO, Coca-Cola Corporation, P.O. Drawer 1734, Atlanta, GA 30301. Lic. Ramiro de Leon Carpio, President of Guatemala, Guatemala City. IUF, Rampe du Pont Rouge 8, CH - 1213 Petit Lancy (Geneva) Switzerland.





Protesters climbing barricades while some occupy construction crane during No M-11 Link Campaign "Operation Roadblock" in East London, England. Demonstrators have shut down roadbuilding sites everyday for the past month.

The M-11 Link motorway is a three mile extension road going through East London's working class neighborhoods. Some residents of the area are refusing to relocate, squatting their own homes. Other activists have also moved into the area reinforcing some of the vacated dwellings. Environmental and social justice advocates have joined forces in opposition to the M-11 Link. The protests have cost the project millions of dollars in down time and additional security measures. At present the M-11 Link is over five months behind schedule.

The alliance against an M-11 Link motorway can always use support of more people in their fight. There is a large supply of empty houses crying out for squatters. For free lodging and direct action opportunities in London, please contact: NO M-11 LINK CAMPAIGN, Railway Arch 211, Grove Green Road, London E11 4AJ. Phone: 081-558-2638—fax 081-539-7569. Photo: Langlelle

## The Union Struggle has No Borders

### Police Attack Sony Maquiladora Workers

On Saturday, April 16, 250 workers of Sony Corporation's maquiladora facility were attacked by police while conducting a peaceful demonstration in front of the plant. The workers, mostly women, were protesting Sony's attempt to conduct fraudulent union elections aimed at choosing union delegates who support Company policies.

Worker dissatisfaction at the Sony plant has been rising since last January, when the Company discharged six union delegates who opposed anti-democratic union tendencies and a new work schedule which Sony was implementing that required a six-day work week, including work on Saturdays and Sundays. Women workers throughout Sony's operations objected to the new schedule because it eliminated time which they needed to attend religious services and spend time with their families.

On Thursday, April 14, at 11 p.m., Sony's hand-picked union representatives announced that there would be an election for union delegates the following morning at 7:00 a.m. This gave the workers just eight hours to prepare their own slate of delegates.

At 7:00 a.m. on Friday morning, the Company's designated union representatives conducted "election," informing workers to line up on two sides of the plant according to preference of slate. During this process, to ensure the desired outcome, selected union officials pressured workers to line up on the side in support of the Company's delegate slate.

On Saturday, April 16, workers organized a non-violent protest in front of the plant gates, demanding new, fair, secret

ballot elections. At 12:00 noon, under order from Horacio Garza, mayor of Nuevo Laredo, city police were called in to disperse the protesters. Forty police wearing riot gear and carrying Plexiglas shields descended upon the workers, beating them with billy clubs. Dozens received blows, one young woman was admitted to a local hospital with head injuries and two workers were arrested.

As of Monday, April 18, the situation remains extremely tense as workers have renewed their protest outside the plant.

The situation at the Sony plant in Nuevo Laredo is being monitored by the American Friends Service Committee, AFL-CIO, and the Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras. Concerns regarding the events at Sony are being registered with the Company and appropriate government agencies. Consideration is being given to lodging a formal complaint against Sony before the National Administrative Office, set up by the US Labor Department to implement the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) side agreement on labor.

Letters of protest are requested to the following:

Mr Carl Yankowski, President  
Sony Electronics  
One Sony Drive  
Park Ridge, NJ 07656-8003  
FAX 201-930-7202

Michael Schulhof, President/Sony of America FAX 212-755-8458  
Akira Morita, Chairman of the Board/Sony Corporation FAX 011-8135-448-5376

### On the scene report

## French student strikes against sub minimum wage

Every five years the French parliament deals with laws concerning work and labor conditions. This happened last fall, when among other nasty things, it created a new labour contract, the "CIP", or contrat d'insertion professionnelle, according to which students with two years of professional studies in high school would be paid at most 80% of the minimum wage (which is 30 FF/hour). Other less educated people would be paid as low as 35% of the minimum wage!

When the decree specifying the conditions of application went public in late February, the move was understood by the general population as "Parents sacked, children hired instead, at a third the price".

Since early March many demonstrations have taken place in every town in France, including at around 300,000 people all around the country. After several modifications, the decree was suppressed, the 31st of march.

In the demos were found mostly young students, but MS or BS students remained quiet. Unions called for a march, but union members and students didn't mix. Only three Universities were closed by strikers, with picket lines and general assemblies: Rennes II, Nantes, and Paris I (Tolbiac).

Repression was very high: in Paris, Lyon and Nantes alone, over 1200 people were arrested, and over 240 were charged with various fake accusations. Special police units were present, with civilian clothes, and arrested people inside the demos. In

Lyon, two young demonstrators arrested were sent to Algeria, were their parents came from, under anti-terrorists laws. On TV, very violent scenes of police anti-riot action were shown.

The press spoke mainly about the "casseurs" (rioters), and thus escaped the main problem, the law cutting wages for young people. In addition to changing the CIP demonstrators across France added demands for the immediate release of the arrested persons, and for the return of the two Algerian youths.

The government official seen the most on TV's was the Interior Minister, Charles Pasqua, was also in charge when Malik Ousseine was killed the 3rd December 1986, during huge student demos.

Also, the repression radicalised some youths, and in demos in Lyon, it was nice to see 1000's of demonstrators chanting "One solution, the revolution", or in Rennes, "Pasqua fascist, the people will kill you".

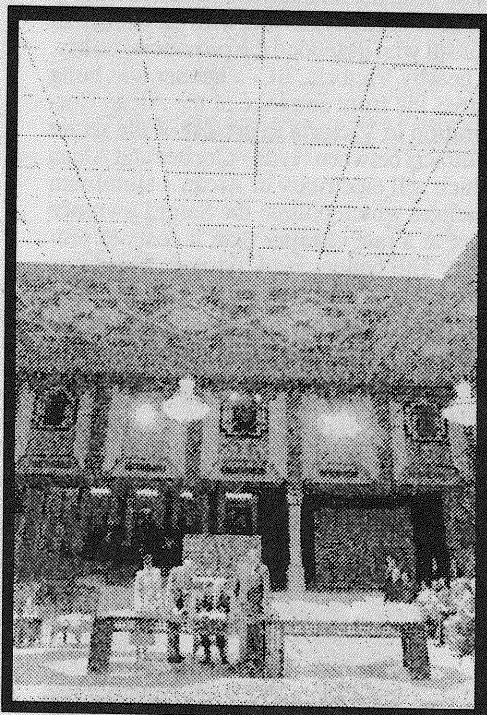
Many arresting attempts were stopped by demonstrators physically opposing the cops, and more generally, the idea of "class justice" is spreading. Moreover, a general consciousness that labour problems, suburbs problems, police repression are linked together, and hopefully, this is only the beginning of a larger social movement.

Like the demonstrators chanted, "This is only the beginning, let's continue the struggle".

Ronan, CNT-AIT

## That Economic "Recovery"

The *Wall Street Journal* reports (3/28) that Britain's economy is flourishing—pointing to several firms that have recently opened or expanded hiring. Britain's unemployment rate remains an "uncomfortable" 9.8 percent, it admits, but claims that is well below unemployment rates on the continent.



Rich guys sign GATT

This is economic recovery, capitalist style—the inevitable result of workers acquiescing to an economic system that pits us against each other in wage wars. As long as the bosses are left in charge we can look forward only to more of the same.

What accounts for this strong showing? "15 years of Conservative Party rule have helped make Britain's once-rigid work force more flexible. Unions and workers' rights have been weakened, minimum wages struck down, jobless benefits cut..." In short, Britain now is a capitalist wet dream—featuring throngs of desperate workers forced to accept nearly any conditions.

The "encouraging signs" include increased hiring at a Sony color TV plant that pays its workers \$5.99 an hour, Black & Decker's decision to move a plant from Germany to Scotland, and a Norwegian company's successful effort to force Scottish shipyard workers to work longer hours at far less pay.

A Glasgow garment factory forced workers to accept a 20 percent cut in base pay after a 6-week strike. "Row on row of workers—mostly young women—fill the six-acre plant. Earning incentive pay for each piece sewn, they work frantically..." A typical worker is paid only \$134.78 a week; plant management boasts that costs are two-thirds the U.S. level and half what they would pay in Germany or Belgium.





Quebec (Harold Mailhot) spoke in total unquestioning defence of Hydro-Quebec. When questioned, Mailhot admitted that HQ's private police force probably operates in the United States because of the power lines that cross from Canada and into the US to provide a percentage of electricity used in the northeastern US.

Glasgow, Scotland activists demonstrated at Canadian Air and were met by a generally responsive Canadian constituency. They used a 30 foot banner to blockade the road but no one was arrested. In Brussels, Belgium activists from Steungroep Inheemse Volkeren met with Hydro-Quebec International where they presented to the multinational a list of demands from the Innu Nation regarding the construction of the impending Sainte Marguerite-3 Project.

In Melbourne, Australia NFN Victoria staged a six hour protest outside of Canadian Airlines. Southern Hemisphere NFN in Tasmania gave radio interviews, slideshows, held a faxing and mailing campaign and are pursuing the Human rights violations of Hydro-Quebec's Projects with the Federal Parliamentary committee.

Activists in the Former Soviet Union gathered outside of the Canadian Embassy in Moscow displaying placards protesting the Hydro Quebec Corporation's dirty deeds in Quebec in addition to demanding that Hydro-Quebec cancel any possible plans to consult on large scale hydro projects in the FSU.

Sixty people picketed and marched on the Canadian and Quebec consulates in Chicago. Ed Two Rivers read a statement about growing up in the bush of Canada. Tom Lynd, from Chicago American Indian Movement and NFN Central Hardwoods representative John Wallace met with the Canadian consul. They reported that the consul claimed "the Cree had signed the contract allowing the La Grande Project willingly and did not oppose H-Q" and that he "cared about his grandchildren too". Two Wisconsin activists met with the Quebec Consul who flaunted his ignorance by claiming that "No one in Quebec is doing anything to oppose [H-Q], only people like you outside of the country".

More than 75 activists gathered at Bangor (Maine) Hydro and locked down their front doors to protest that utility's power purchase from H-Q despite the State agreeing not to buy H-Q electricity. One Bangor Hydro official admitted that they receive electricity from a power pool to which H-Q contributes. In addition, new power lines planned to come into Maine from New Brunswick will also carry some H-Q power, he confessed. Media from all over the state were

present and one TV station used footage from the James Bay documentary video "Voices From the Garden".

The presence of anti-H-Q activists forced the Rutland, Vermont Central Vermont Public Service (CVPS) Corporation to close down for the day. CVPS is Vermont's largest purchaser of H-Q electricity. The vast majority of this electricity, however, is sold back to H-Q at a loss. This, in part, has led to the laying off of workers by CVPS. When activists tried to meet with the utility to express concerns about the H-Q contract, CVPS locked their doors.

In Boston 75 activists gathered with signs and banners to demand that the New England Power Pool cancel its contracts with H-Q. Present at this rally was Coalition for Nitassinan spokesperson Gilbert Pilot who spoke about the injustices being done to native people by H-Q. He also spoke about the Sainte Marguerite project and the terrible impacts it will have on his people and the land.

In New York City activists gathered, including several Cree people who had canoed into the city on the Odeyak, to demand that Con Edison permanently put off any future contract plans with Hydro-Quebec. Con Ed recently announced an 18 month delay in any power purchase from H-Q. This decision has led to H-Q delaying the construction of the Great Whale Project by another 18 months pending further economic review.

At San Francisco the Native Forest Network joined with activists from the International Rivers Network, International Indian Treaty Council, Greenpeace and Earth First! for a demonstration and picket line in front of the Canadian Trade Offices. They displayed a large banner depicting hands ripping apart the H-Q logo while chanting "HQ off the planet!" People at the Canadian Trade Office refused to meet with any of the protestors.

Activists gathered at the Canadian Embassy in Washington DC to picket and educate passers-by about the evils of H-Q. While there they noticed the remains of wheat-pasted posters all over the security ridden embassy that read "Damn dams!"

Seattle activists met at the Canadian Consulate where they hung banners chanted and performed street theater in opposition to the past, present and future plans of H-Q. Some of the activists met with the Canadian Consul who defended the provincial utility. In nearby Victoria, BC - a banner was hung across the front entrance of the Alcan Corporation in Victoria in protest of the secret contracts between Hydro-Quebec and Alcan which sell electricity to Alcan's aluminum smelters which pollute the Saint Lawrence river at a rate cheaper than it costs to produce. The banner read "Stop damming on native lands" and depicted a cracking dam.



## we have to stop the money junkies we have that responsibility

My name is Ed Two Rivers. I'm a full blood Ojibwa and a proud member of the Illinois chapter of the American Indian Movement. Speaking on behalf of the organization, I'd like to thank the organizer of this protest for inviting us to participate.

There is not really a lot that I can say up here that hasn't already been or will be very clearly stated. I'm very honored that this local AIM chapter asked me to speak to you. Being one of the elder radicals in the community, I guess that they feel I've done this before but I haven't. There is another reason why I feel honored and that is one that is much closer to what I am as a person.

I was born in Canada — in the bush. My play grounds were the beautiful lakes and rivers. I spent most of my time running wild in the bush. My happiest moments — the best memories that I have in me are of those times when I was in the bush surrounded by pines and birches and cedar trees. Sometimes I'd just sit and listen and I'd marvel at the life that surrounded me. There was so much going on. My elders talked to me about life and living. I came from a long line of trappers, hunters and fishing guides.

I've been here in Chicago and I'm proud to say that I've been in lots of demonstrations and rallies, but I especially wanted to be here today because this protest has a language to it that I heard in my youth from my elders. "Spiritual Connection" to our four legged relatives. When I was being taught how to hunt, that topic came up, because I'd get that gun in my hand and I wanted to blast everything!

That's kind of natural, but it was pointed out to me that Indians had to approach it differently. We had a spiritual connection.

That tie with our animal relatives had to be maintained. It was maintained by prayer — not just mouthing words — but by real prayer that happens when you really feel what you're saying. Surrounded by bush, it's real easy to feel that connection.

It was pointed out to me that we lost a lot when we broke that spiritual tie — when we violated it as a species. When I read over some of the material (on Hydro-Quebec) that was given to me, I was happy to see that thought was a part of the material. I'm not going to recite a long list of specific ways this came about, but I'd like you to think about these two things. One — we started trapping for profit. We started killing the beaver and mink and muskrat because their skins were desirable by fashions. We violated our tie with those animals. Two — the Jesuits came and Indian people were confused by their teachings. We forgot about our responsibility to Mother Earth — and that's what we are all struggling with today.

Our responsibility as a speaking/reasoning species is to protect Mother Earth. We have to stop the money junkies who will desecrate the earth for profit. We have to stand up against those who want to alter the face of this beautiful land for power. We have to stand up for our animal relatives — birds and fish. We have the responsibility to speak for them.

As such we are warriors — we have a job to do — a war to fight. We have to stand up and say enough — stop the slaughter of animals, the Earth and people. As earth warriors it's time we make a stand and I feel so proud to be here with you people — you Earth warriors, to do that. Now I'd like to read a poem that I wrote about this issue.

April 14, 1994



### HYDRO-QUEBEC

In Quebec's spruce needled forest

the chilly bite  
of greed  
drowned ten thousand caribou —  
the holy ground  
is desecrated.

the James Bay project,  
bastard child  
of Hydro-Quebec  
is pure genocide —  
sorrow falls  
like tears from northern lights.

perverted and lust filled  
the greedy hands  
stroke the fleshy thighs  
of Mother Earth —  
from her bosom  
they extract richness.

No dance of renewal  
for the beaver,  
the martin, the mink  
the salmon swim  
in heated circles  
chanting a death song.

the jingle of coin  
echoes the hillsides  
and rivers of Quebec —  
a cancerous decay.  
brother against brother  
white man against all.

the genocidal flood waters  
of Hydro-Quebec assault  
our four legged relatives  
with deadly force —  
the holy ground  
is desecrated.

the spirits of Cree trappers  
turn in agony,  
the drums being burned —  
banished as taboo.  
sturgeons are silent,  
they're all dead and gone.

Cards on the table,  
the elders cry —  
voices soft with sorrow.  
holocaust and destruction  
sadden their precious  
hearts to sob.

the severed spiritual binds  
with animal relatives  
leave old ones lost  
in a hostile concrete jungle.  
the children are dying —  
the future at peril.

Earth warriors stand proud,  
feel your soul,  
defend Mother Earth  
listen well to you heart  
the holy ground  
is desecrated.



**Capitalist hero  
was a child-sex  
pervert who never  
struck it rich!**

**Wage Slave  
World News**

TRASHY JOURNALISM FOR THE WORKING CLASS

JUNE, 1994

VOL. 5, NO. 2

# **HORATIO ALGER MYTH EXPOSED!**



**LEARN**

**THE SECRET  
OF HIS SORDID  
SEX CRIMES!**

**DISCOVER**

**THE NAKED TRUTH  
BEHIND HIS BOGUS  
BIOGRAPHY!**

**BE AMAZED**

**AT HOW HORATIO'S  
NOVELS CORRUPTED  
THE NATION'S YOUTH!**

**STALEY WORKERS LAUNCH  
HORATIO "AUGER" AWARD!**



# STALEY WORKERS HEAP SCORN ON SCOUNDRELS



**They hand out "Horatio Auger" awards to dishonor Illinois' favorite big business bums!**

**Locked-out wage slaves at the A.E. Staley corn processing plant in Decatur, Illinois dishonored their corporate exploiters at a special "Horatio Auger" awards ceremony!**

The workers have been locked-out since June of 1993 for refusing to accept massive wage and benefit cuts. They were inspired by the awards created by the Horatio Alger Association for Distinguished Americans. Those awards are bestowed every year on "living individuals who by their own efforts had pulled themselves up by their bootstraps in the American tradition."

"When we found out that the Horatio Alger Association was honoring Dwayne Andreas, the CEO of Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), we were outraged," said one locked-out Staley worker. "Andreas is nothing but a union-buster, a price fixer and a big time political operator. But then we realized that giving an award named after a man who screwed children to a man who screws

workers was appropriate."

The workers started their own organization, The Horatio Auger Association of Extinguished Americans. Association Chairman Archie DeBunker said that "each year from now on we will be giving special prizes to corporate fat cats, hypocrites, scoundrels, scumbags and union busters. Unlike the Alger Awards, ours will be based on fact, not myth."

The first awards were announced April 15 in front of the ADM offices in Decatur. The ceremony was held the same day as the Horatio Alger Awards banquet in Washington, D.C. The Horatio Alger Award was given to Andreas for his "supposed devotion to feeding the poor around the globe." The Horatio Auger Award went to ADM for being convicted in 1978 of fixing prices on foodstuffs sold to the Food for Peace program. "Mother Teresa was quoted as thanking him for his help in feeding the poor. Little does she know what kind of man Andreas really is," said DeBunker. Andreas is also part of a coal-

tion of big-business interests devoted to busting unions in the corn processing industry. Recently ADM was fined \$318,000 by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for failure to protect their employees from workplace hazards that took at least one life. "Andreas earned the Auger award for his unique ability to put the screws to workers worldwide and everyone and everything he is involved with," said ceremony organizer Mike Griffin.

The Horatio Algae Award went to Larry Pillard, President of A.E. Staley in recognition of his old and moldy statements about norms in the industry and the need for "change."

The Horatio Ratio Award was granted to J.P. Mohan, Vice President of Staley, in recognition of the incredible amount of half-truths, misstatements, and lies told in a single company news release.

The Horatio Flogger Award was given to Neil Shaw CEO of Staley's parent company Tate &

Lyle (aka Take & Lies) for his devotion to greed, beating down workers all over the world, and to lying to stockholders.

## CAPITALISTS HOLD ALGER AWARD CEREMONY IN D.C.

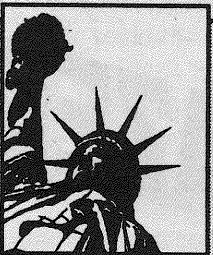
The Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans honored 10 winners of their annual Horatio Alger Awards at a Washington, D.C. ceremony April 15.

The association, founded in 1947, honors "living individuals who by their own efforts had pulled themselves up by their bootstraps in the American tradition."

Some of the past winners were Ronald Reagan, Richard L. Knowlton, CEO of George A. Hormel & Co., and Billy Graham.

The award, televised April 22 on NBC, is named after Horatio Alger, a famous 19th century pedophile and mediocre writer of didactic novels.

## Horatio Alger Award winner and ADM CEO Dwayne Andreas receives praise from around the world



**MOSCOW'S FAVORITE BUSINESSMAN - A POWERBROKER...** One confidant says, "I've seen senators genuflect in front of him." During the last presidential election, Andreas and ADM gave more than \$1 million to the Republican Party. In 1993 Andreas was fined \$8,000 for campaign violations.

"He's a wonderful example of democracy for our nation's youth."  
- Statue of Liberty

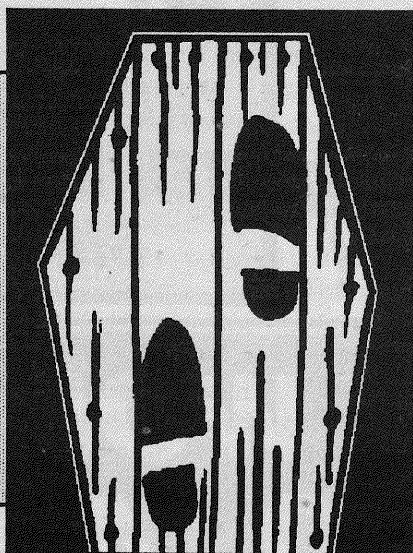
"M R. ANDREAS HAS BEEN A REAL GIFT OF GOD TO US, especially after his company was convicted of fixing prices on food sold to the Food for Peace program. "The hungry children of the world thank him."  
- Mother Teresa



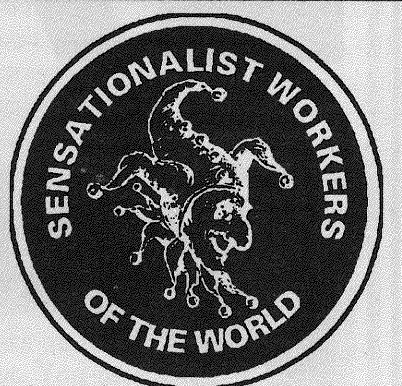
**"THE MOST POWERFUL BUSINESSMAN IN THE FARM BELT,** his footsteps are felt all over the backs of Americans.

He's stepped so hard on us that OSHA recently fined ADM \$318,000 for failure to protect his workers from workplace dangers that resulted in my death."

- Dead ADM worker



## WAGE SLAVE WORLD NEWS



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the Sensationalist  
Workers of the World  
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**NAKED TRUTH UNCOVERED!**

# HORATIO ALGER IS A FRAUD!



**"RAGS-TO-RICHES" hero  
was a child molester who  
never struck it rich!**

Horatio Alger, the famous author of "rags-to-riches" books, sexually molested boys and never struck it rich as a writer! In fact his life was one of "thwarted ambition" say two authors of an expose' on the capitalist hero.

by ARCHIE DeBUNKER  
Special to the Wage Slave

The book, *The Lost Life of Horatio Alger* (Indiana University Press, 1985), explodes in vivid detail the myth of corporate America's most beloved author. According to Gary Scharnhorst of the University of Texas and Jack Bales of Mary Washington College, Horatio Alger was a child-sex pervert whose life was mythologized by a bogus biographer in 1927.

Alger has long been the personification of the powerful capitalist myth that through luck and pluck anyone, no matter what their station, can rise to the top of the social and economic ladder.

Alger, born in 1832, the son of a Unitarian Minister, graduated from Harvard College in 1852. After failing to find work as a writer, he entered Harvard Theological School in 1853 and eventually became minister for the Unitarian Church in Brewster, Mass.

Alger was forced to flee his job in 1866 when he was charged with sexually molesting boys. According to a church committee report, Alger "neither denied or attempted to extenuate" the evidence. In a letter from the Brewster committee to the American Unitarian Association in

Boston the committee chairman, Solomon Freeman wrote, "Horatio Alger Jr., who has officiated as our minister for about 15 months past, has recently been charged with gross immorality and a most heinous crime, a crime of no less magnitude than the abominable and revolting crime of unnatural familiarity with boys..."

To avoid prosecution, Alger fled to New York where he began to study the city's homeless "street arabs." Their lives inspired the stories he wrote until his death in 1899.

Alger never could make ends meet as a writer and had to take jobs as a teacher or personal tutor. He was even accused of corrupting the nation's youth when in 1874 a Boston prosecutor blamed dime novels, the kind Alger wrote, for inspiring his client, Jesse Pomeroy, to commit murder. As a result, librarians all over the U\$A purged their shelves of Alger novels.

In 1927 a journalist named Herbert R. Mayes sought to write a biography of Alger but found that Alger's sister had destroyed all his papers to cover up his sordid sexual past. In 1974 Mayes admitted to *Time* magazine that as a result, he made the whole thing up.

"All I had to do was come up

with a fairy tale. No research required. Nothing required but a little imagination," Mayes said. The Mayes "hoax" called *Alger: A Biography Without A Hero* became the basis of the Horatio Alger myth.

"Mayes's bogus biography was long regarded as factual, apparently because it served to reinforce Alger's popular image coined during the prosperous 1920s, as a prophet of business success," say Scharnhorst and Bales. "Mayes's

hoax, paradoxically, both distorted the record of Alger's life and mirrored perfectly the prevailing opinion of Alger's books, which were by then mostly out of print and no longer read."

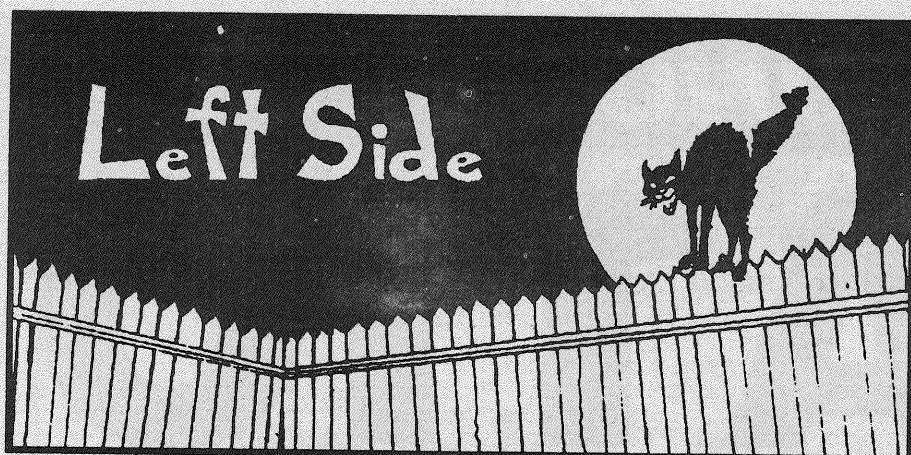
Alger wrote over one hundred and twenty books but was panned by literary critics of the day.

It was only after his death that capitalist America turned the pedophile paragrapher into a magnificent myth.



Alger's "unnatural familiarity with boys" gives new meaning to the title of his most famous novel, *Ragged Dick*.





The reason all you good readers (hopefully) missed this column last issue is because your scribe was overseas enjoying himself and never got to his obligations. Be assured that my visit to Germany was a most enjoyable one and the beer and bratwurst is as good as ever and not interfered with by any silly notions of moderation. The parts of the country where I had been are indeed beautiful. Because of an unusual abundance of moisture, the fields are always green except when there is snow on the ground. Why the country is not the popular tourist Mecca for Statesiders as countries further south is obviously due to the fact that the Mark and the Dollar, having equal potency, there is no great bargain in the exchange of currencies.

One thing that one is impressed with is the amount of forests there are, considering the high density of population and that the country has had a high population density for over a millennium. The river valleys consist of one city or well sized town after the other while up in the hills are the dense forests and beyond open farmland. One must also remember that forestry is another important industry in Germany but these forests have been maintained for well over a thousand years. One naturally wonders how an area as densely populated as Germany can have so much more forest than here at Stateside where the forests have been all but depleted. One logical explanation is that there the people have lived for many generations and have truly come to identify with the land. They, like the Indians here, thought in terms of keeping the environment intact for the seventh generation. Unfortunately the outsiders who came to this Continent looked upon the abundance that was here as a means to get rich quick and never really identified with the land the way the indigenous inhabitants have done for thousands of years with the tragic result of droughts, erosion, floods and whatnot.

However there is a dark side to every cloud. The forest of Germany are dying out due to the amount of pollution that abounds. And that is automotive pollution. The trees in Germany are dying not from industrialization but from the proliferation of the internal combustion engine that seems to be the curse of the modern age. While the German working stiff who is still working enjoys a better life than the Stateside working stiff, Germany is still under the capitalist system with all the attendant ills of that system.

The employing class in Germany, like their colleagues here at Stateside are also taking advantage of areas on the Globe where the labor can be cheaper and where there are not such troublesome things as unions. Many jobs there have been exported to other parts of the Earth with the result that there is also an army of unemployed in Germany as well as in Freedomland. The unions there, consequently, have suffered as well. When the worker no longer has a job, the worker can no longer keep up the union dues with the attendant loss of union membership. The system, like here, has a convenient means of diverting the working-stiff's attention away from the real ills of a system that can only serve the interests of a minuscule minority of the population.

During the years when there was an overabundance of jobs in Germany and there were not enough workers in the country to fill those jobs, immigrants were invited to come from other countries, mainly from Southern Europe and Turkey, who became known as "gastarbeiters" or guest workers. Many came in and after so many years established permanent residence in Germany. From Turkey alone there are over five million permanent residents in the country. The hardest hit among the unemployed are the erstwhile gastarbeiters who are on relief now. Some of those who are not on relief have turned to other forms of survival such as racketeering or petty crime.

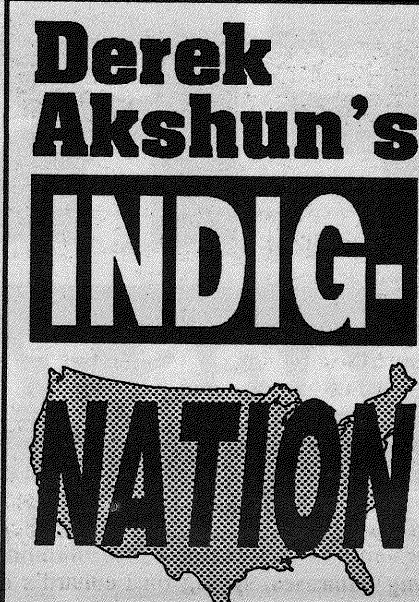
The German working stiff who is either out of work or feeling the economic pinch in some other way is having his attention diverted to the population of foreigners as the source of his ills. The neo-Nazis are again on the rise. They delight in pointing out the foreign worker and asylum immigrant who is living on government aid. However there is at the same time a growing resistance to the rise of the neo-Nazis and popular demonstrations throughout the country. The new political force, the "greens" are gaining strength and are forming a coalition with the Social Democrats. The Greens have an uphill struggle as the establishment sticks up for the industrialists to whom the ecology-oriented Greens are an anathema. The middle of the road politicians are losing ground but unfortunately along with the rise of the Greens there is an attendant rise of the neo-Nazis and other elements of the extreme right. It is uncomfortably very much like the atmosphere preceding the rise of Hitler and you all know behind which camp the employing class is going to wield its clout.

## Emergency of State

I'm so mad I'm going to create a state of emergency - burn the throne out from under Chicago Mayor Daley the Second.

Hizzonner and Chicago Public Housing honcho Vince Lane, with assistance from President Billary and Housing Secretary Cisneros are experimenting with how to strip away remaining protections against search and seizure. The new project is to declare a "state of emergency" in Chicago Public Housing. Then any time a cop has reason to believe there is a gun in a building (hundreds live in a building) unannounced, no warrant, bust the door, down ask questions later, searches going to be slimed past some Federal Judge and "become law". It's the "golden rule" - them that's got the gold, rule.

To sell this new oppression to the placid masses as "something happening to someone else" there are big news spreads on the 300 reports of gun fire in the Robert Taylor Homes (coincidentally?) the weekend before Secretary Cisneros showed up. Anyone who's lived around gun fire could tell you that's likely 20 phone calls each on 15 gunshots and no police response except keeping and publicizing the statistics. That this move comes from liberals is no surprise. Nixon opened the door to China's markets. Clinton opens your door to warrantless searches.



Chicago public housing is built to oppress - dense and intense, undermaintained, segregated by class and race. People are stacked up in Couecescau style hi-rises, jobs, investment, police and social services are withdrawn from the neighborhood. Guns and white powders are inserted. Desperation and poverty. Addiction and death. Violence and more violence. The housing decays.

The cops break through residents doors, searching, intimidating, demanding weapons. Demands weapons in a society obsessed with weapons, in a neighborhood where gun fire is more likely than a living wage or high school graduation. Where cops torture and kill.

King Daley the Second mumbles half sentence blame the victim lines fed him by more able minded handlers. Half baked half sentences about less rights means more rights.

Daley and Lane, perhaps in trade for the 1996 Democratic Convention, provide Clinton a test case - Chicago cops invade public housing. A military intrusion into colonized territory. All wrapped in a propaganda spectacular: Corporate media ships up fear of black men. The "projects" are the focus of newspaper articles and lurid (after the event) "live" TV reporting. Right wing talk radio whines "my taxes pay their rent" about public housing residents - never explores the government subsidies and profits that rip off the cities, institutionalizes and corporatizes racist, classist oppression, creates the "state of emergency."

You there - yeah you - don't go thinking you're safe because you pay a private landlord or are "buying" your home from the bank. The colonizers do their repression experiments on the colonized. Public Housing, Indian Reservations, get it first. You just get it after it's been refined. "State of Emergency" with a smiley face.

Former Black Panther turned Democratic Mainstreamer Congressman Bobby Rush (not to be confused with current IWW GST Robert Rush nor Labor Secretary Robert Reich) points out the obvious: "Public housing over the years is a failed public policy, beginning when the city fathers decided for political reasons that they wanted to build all the public housing in a small geographic area and move all the poor people into a small geographic area." In other words public housing has succeeded as a way of controlling people in a racist and classist manner. By creating a state of emergency.

Housing, damn it, is a right in a civilized society. Here in the USA however it is the corporations which have "rights" to have their factories and offices "housed". This whole society is in a state of emergency.

by C.C. Redcloud



# Free Peltier – Honor the Treaties In The Spirit of Crazy Horse

by zimya' a. toms-trend

After days of hail, snow and rain the sun shone brightly on Saturday, March 19 for the Leonard Peltier march and rally in Tacoma which started promptly at noon at Fireman's Park and culminated at the US Courthouse. Joseph Kalama of the Red Road Ministry opened the ceremony when he acknowledged all Elders present and gave an invocation. Drummers performed an honor song while a woman meandered through the crowd blessing all with sweetgrass.

More drums greeted the 200+ marchers as they arrived at the Courthouse. Joseph Kalama spoke of his problems with state and federal prison officials as he strives to administer spirituality to imprisoned Native brothers and sisters. In spite of the fact that the First Amendment to the Constitution allows freedom of religion to all, a separate law was enacted in 1978 — called the American Indian Religious Freedom Act — to allow these same freedoms to the indigenous peoples of this land.

It's ironic that Native Americans were denied this right to worship that transplanted Europeans have had for over 200 years; even after passage of the 1978 law (which shouldn't have been necessary in the first place), prison officials keep Native American sacred objects out of the prisons by calling them "contraband" and US corporations continue to rape and pillage land (eg. Big Mountain, the Black Hills) which indigenous people consider sacred sites. Leonard Peltier, incarcerated unjustly for 18 years, and hundreds of other imprisoned Natives in 1994 are still unable to consult with spiritual advisors — even though Christian and Jewish in-

mates have this right.

Steve Robideau, Leonard's cousin and Support Network Coordinator, gave the keynote speech and encouraged audience members to support the presidential clemency campaign for Leonard. Besides being an international prisoner of conscience, it's commonly acknowledged that the US government withheld evidence from the defense which was favorable to Leonard. Even the US Court of Appeals stated in September 1986: "Had this evidence not been suppressed, a possibility exists that the jury would have acquitted Leonard Peltier." Parole was again denied to Leonard in December 1993 with the stipulation to re-apply in 15 years!

Other speakers included Juan Bocanegra of Seattle Downtown Human Services Council; Margaret Ward of Tahoma Indian Center; Leroy Mills of the Survival of American Indian Association; Echohawk and daughter, Tsimshian/Pawnee; Chuck Conway an ex-political prisoner and member of the Puyallup Nation. Fellow Worker Arthur Miller, who gave the events' support pitch, has worked with the international Leonard Peltier Support Group for fifteen years and is producing a video on this and other Native American rights issues.

The flyer that states the chain of events most succinctly reads: "18 years plus 15 more to serve in prison is too long for an innocent man to serve; His only 'crime' was serving his people — this is truly cruel and unusual punishment! When the US Courts admit he didn't commit the crime for which he was charged, when the government admits to abusing the legal system (fabricating evidence, intimidating witnesses, spying on Leonard's de-



fense team) besides financing, training and arming death squads against traditional Native Americans...it's time for the people to say...ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!"

As it now stands, the only recourse for justice is Presidential Clemency. All appeals have been exhausted through both the Court of

Appeals and the Supreme Court. Supporters are encouraged to write or call President Clinton at the White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave Washington, DC 20500 (202) 456-1111 or FAX (202) 456-2461; Attorney General Janet Reno, Department

of Justice 10 St. & Constitution Ave Washington, DC 20530 (202) 514-2001 or FAX (202) 214-0467.

Any money donations (or a computer/printer combo) will be immediately put to use by: Steven Robideau, Coordinator: NW Regional Leonard Peltier Support Network 1738 E. Kent Tacoma, WASH 98404. It's time for Leonard to leave the Iron House forever so he and the rest of us can get on with it — in the Spirit of Crazy Horse.

END IT!

## Winona LaDuke Capitalism Cannot Be Reformed

What I want to do is challenge your way of thinking. I want to challenge it from an indigenous perspective, and from a way of trying to look at the next 500 years in kind of a rethinking the end of conquest and the beginning of survival.

I'm a community organizer, that's what I do. I have a project called the White Earth Land Recovery Project. We're trying to get our land back, most of which is held by non-Indians — ninety percent of it. And that's what I do for the most part. Community organizing, that and other land rights and environmental issues in the native community. I'm Anishinnaabeg Mississippi Bear Clan.

... In my understanding time is cyclical. All things that are natural are in cycles: the moon, the tides, women, the seasons, our lives, all things are cyclical, that are natural. The second concept is that of reciprocity. What I mean by reciprocity is that when I go out and harvest wild rice on my reservation in Northern Minnesota, and when I go pick medicine plants on my territory, I go and I harvest something from the earth — I always pray. You cannot take without giving, and one must always sustain that continuous reciprocity to continue to harvest from that ecosystem. We also understand that you only take what you need and you leave the rest. Because if you take more than you need when you are harvesting, then you will be out of order with natural law.

So I want to lay out those concepts to you because I want to contrast them with industrial values. I think that there is striking and frightening contrast with industrialism, in which this society operates, that has conquered this continent, and much of the world. It is not to do with the color, it has to do with the way of thinking, that there is a god given right or a manifest destiny for man to have this right to nature.

A second concept is linear thinking. In this society time is on a time-line. It's a time-line that for the most part begins in 1492 and continues from there on out. And the time-line is indexed with certain dates that are of importance to someone. The time-line also has a whole set of values associated with it. Values, for instance, of progress, defined by things like technological growth, technological advancement and economic growth. Other values like that some people are primitive and should be civilized, or values like land should be tamed and become cultivated. I believe that those are values associated with linear thinking. And I believe that those are values in stark contrast to cyclical thinking.

The second set of values I want to talk about briefly are the values of capitalism. Fundamentally, capitalism, if you take labor and capital and resources and put it together for the purpose of accumulation. Of course the less labor and capital and resources you put together and the more you accumulate the better capitalist you are. Because the essence of capitalism is accumulation, capitalism tends to consistently encourage people to take more than they need and not to leave the rest. And because of that it is my perception and I believe the perception of many indigenous peoples that capitalism is inherently out of order with natural law.

You know we've been all the way through this system, and you know I believe in using every tactic that you can. I believe in using the courts, the legislative process, direct action, I believe in every single tactic, and I believe in organizing to change things. We have tried all the way through the judicial system in this country, and it doesn't work for us as Indian people. That's our experience.

A friend of mine, she's at this people

of color summit, and some people there are talking about environmental justice. She said, "I don't want justice," she said, "You guys can't be wantin' justice, that justice she's just a white lady with a perm and a blindfold. And then she's got these scales, and they're tipped besides, you know." That's really our experience as Indigenous people. It's that the judicial system doesn't work for us....

I want to say that 500 years is about resistance. That we are still alive, that we are still here, and that we intend to stay. And that in beginning to exchange between indigenous peoples and non-indigenous peoples, when the terms of exchange have changed so that we are on more equal ground, I think that there's a lot that we can offer to your struggle, or all of our struggles in terms of resistance.

I just have the utmost respect for people who are engaged in struggle. We struggle not because we do a lot of theoretical stuff around it, but we struggle because if we don't struggle we aren't gonna survive. That is the essence of our struggle. It is also based on our love for our way of life.

There are people who have engaged in resistance for a very long time, using all different tactics, and understanding it I encourage you to integrate all you tactics and to use all tactics. Always think things through, always be clear about that, but be as creative as you can. Know your allies.

You know it is really hard to get people to change unless you articulate a vision of where we need to go. We need to say that we need a new energy plan which is based on decentralized energy production. We need to say that we need a demilitarized society. We need to begin to articulate that in real clear ways.

I do not ever believe that there is a possibility to reform capitalism to coin-

cide. It is possible that there are different ideas, but I believe ultimately that the issue is systemic change, and the essence of that issue has to do with our relationship to this world. It has to do with consuming too much and that relationship is essential. It is the relationship of a society which consumes way out of order in terms of the world and, as a consequence of its over consumption requires constant intervention into other peoples, to their land and their territories and their resources. That is the essence of the problem....

The best example I ever heard was I was testifying at an Exxon stock holders meeting once, and I was testifying about this uranium mine, and they have these little microphones and there were all these ladies with their feather boas and their fur coats and all these guys in their suits and everything, and of course these little Exxon guys up on stage — five little white guys with a big Exxon hanging from the stage — anyway, so people go with go with stock holders resolutions, and they have these different resolutions on South Africa and nukes and uranium mining. This guy stood up and he said, "I don't got a resolution. I got a question," he was a Maryknoll priest and he stood up there and said, "my question is that I've been working in Latin America for the past 10 years and the people there want to know if there's a direct relationship between their poverty and your wealth?" And that's all he said, and you know really, that's what I want to say is the essence of the problem.

LaDuke's comments are excerpted from a speech printed in *Free Society* (PO Box 7293, Minneapolis, MN 55407) To make a financial contribution or for more information on land reacquisition efforts write: White Earth Land Recovery Project, PO Box 327, White Earth MN 56591



# Steel Town History: authoritarianism & the role of the unions

## Homestead: The Glory and Tragedy of an American Steel Town.

By William Serrin. New York: Times Books-Random House, 1992.

This essential book is a history of the town of Homestead, Pennsylvania. But Homestead was home to the Homestead Works, the steel mill that was the centerpiece of the Carnegie Steel Company and later of U.S. Steel—and so it is also a history of the rise and fall of the steel industry in the United States. And the Homestead Works was the site of the Homestead strike of 1892—and so this book is also a history of the labor movement in the steel industry, of its death at Homestead, its rebirth in the '30s, and its slow decay thereafter. And as the author, former labor and workplace correspondent for *The New York Times*, points out, "Homestead existed because of the mill" (p. 9)—and so it is also a history of working-class culture in Homestead, of how this culture was woven around and dependent upon the steel industry, and of how this culture declined when the industry did, which decline resulted in the closing of the Homestead Works in 1986.

I shall not deal with all the themes that Serrin has woven together in this marvelous and saddening book. Rather, I shall focus on two of them, "authoritarianism and the acceptance of it . . . [and] the role of unions in American life" (p. 25).

**Authoritarianism.** Capitalist production requires docile workers, workers willing to do what they are told and no more. Serrin brings out very well how the Homestead Works functioned as an instrument

for the subordination of the people of Homestead, especially after the 1892 strike, which resulted not only in the shattering of the Amalgamated Association, the steelworkers' trade union, which was at the time the largest union in the United States, but also in the breaking of the spirit of the people of Homestead. The very mill itself worked admirably in producing docility: as the main employer in the town, the brutal labor that working at the mill required sapped the workers of the time and energy for free and independent activity.

To this, management added a system of internal espionage and blackmail. The corporation also took over the entire social life of the community: the clergy were willing to defend management, mill executives held the political offices, and the corporation was the main source of social service, from libraries and schools to basic community maintenance. In these ways the Works deprived the workers of the ability to effectively decide and act for themselves, which deprivation they recognized and resented, but about which they could do little.

**The role of unions.** The Homestead strike of 1892 was the result of a lockout that Andrew Carnegie and Henry Clay Frick instigated to break the Homestead local of the Amalgamated Association, the only local of that union left in the area. The Association was "an elitist, conservative organization that had much in common with management" (p.68) and that did all it could to keep from going on strike. But once they went on strike, in

July of that year, nearly the entirety of Homestead came together in mutual support, as exemplified in the defeat and capture of Pinkerton strikebreakers that Frick attempted to bring into the Works by way of the Monongahela River. This pitched gun battle between the strikers and the corporation resulted in the use of the Pennsylvania militia to protect the strikebreakers, which led to the eventual defeat of the strike in November. This eliminated organized labor from Homestead for over forty years, until the Steel Workers Organizing Committee of the CIO (which became the United Steelworkers of America) managed to return organized labor to Homestead in 1937.

The way in which this return took place is disturbing, though. As Serrin points out, "The steelworkers were organized, but they had not organized themselves. The organizing had been done for them, from above, from outside—by emissaries from [John L.] Lewis and his union [the United Mine Workers], who brought with them the mine workers' authoritarian tradition and deep distrust of democracy in unions. There were no steelworkers in the SWOC leadership" (p.213).

Success had come about not so much through organizing at the point of production—the organizing drive that led up to the triumph of the SWOC, which began in 1936, had bogged down much as previous drives by the Association and the SWOC had—as through secret negotiations between U.S. Steel chairman Myron C. Taylor and Lewis. Like the libraries and the schools, the union was effectively a gift of

the corporation, and this could not but reinforce the submissiveness to which the workers of Homestead had become inured.

This was complemented by the internal structure of, and the role played by, the United Steelworkers of America. The USA was highly centralized, did all it could to stamp out grassroots militancy, and basically functioned as a means of ensuring the productivity of the rank and file, to the benefit of the steel industry. So when massive layoffs began in the '80s, leading up to the closing of the Works in 1986, the union was in no position to do anything but sit there and take it.

I think there are two lessons that can be learned from *Homestead*. The first is that the only way in which organized labor can be effective in gaining control for the workers themselves is through control of the unions from the bottom up.

But second, and more importantly, union democracy must itself involve and be based in a broader effort to ensure that workers are no longer willing to be docile in their lives and that they actually have the means of determining their own lives in a free manner. Union bureaucracies could not have dominated the rank and file in Homestead and elsewhere were not the rank and file already used to and acquiescent in being dominated. It is this latter lesson, I think, that has to be learned, and learned well, for direct control of our own lives to be a plausible proposition.

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## AFL-CIO exports its poison to Russia

— from page 1 —

Russia: the Russian-American Foundation for Trade Union Research and Education.

From the start, the AFL-CIO's operations in Russia have been highly "ideological." *Delo* has a well-deserved reputation for being incapable of criticizing any word or deed of Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The fact that Yeltsin's "reforms" have had a terrible cost for workers—the wiping out of savings by inflation, drastic cuts in real incomes, and now steeply rising unemployment—has not caused this support to waver.

Though supposedly aimed at developing the labor movement in Russia, the instrumentalities set up with AFL-CIO support have adopted a hostile and sectarian attitude toward the organizations that make up the great bulk of that movement. Of Russia's 72 million-strong workforce, somewhere between 50 and 60 million people are members of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia (FNPR—unions formerly controlled by the government, ed.). However, the AFL-CIO rejects collaboration with FNPR member unions.

The reasoning behind this position is that the FNPR unions, as legal successors to the old Soviet-era bodies, are not genuine trade unions. But this is simply untrue. Since 1990 an important process of renovation and democratization has taken place in the FNPR. In one of the most important reforms, the old, highly centralized lines of authority within the federation have been broken; member unions now decide their own policies, with the FNPR's leading bodies playing only a consultative and coordinating role.

Under pressure from increasingly demanding memberships, officials of the FNPR unions have had to learn the skills of labor organization and struggle. Many officials who have failed these tests have been replaced in elections. The degree of renewal varies widely from union to union, and in few cases can the reform process be regarded as complete. But it should be stressed that few of the AFL-CIO unions are models of democracy either. The leading bodies of the AFL-CIO, in particular, are much less democratic and responsive to rank and file sentiment than their extensively reformed FNPR counterparts. The last time an election was contested at an AFL-CIO convention was in 1965.

The real reasons for the AFL-CIO's hostility toward the FNPR include knee-jerk cold war prejudice, and in recent times, the FNPR's sharply critical attitude to Yeltsin. In September 1993 the leadership of the FNPR condemned the Russian president's actions in disbanding the parliament and overthrowing the constitution. In its essentials, the FNPR's response to Yeltsin's coup was shared by most of Russia's political parties.

Rejecting collaboration with the mass trade union movement in Russia, the AFL-CIO has instead sought to work with the "free" trade unions that operate outside the FNPR structures. Emerging since the late 1980s, the "free" unions have a combined membership of only a few hundred thousand people. A number of these unions, set up years ago by labor activists who split from the traditional union movement because of its lack of militancy in defending workers' rights, are among Russia's best-organized and most combative labor movement bodies; these include unions of coal miners and air traffic controllers. Among the other "free" unions, however, are some very strange organizations whose claim to be part of the labor movement is slender. Overall, the "free" union movement is not especially vigorous, and does not appear to be growing. Several attempts to organize a federation of "free" unions have had little success.

With their origins among opponents of Communist Party rule, the "free" unions have mostly given support to Yeltsin, though some have broken with him and embraced extreme nationalist positions. In recent times, this support for the Russian president has created major strains within the "free" union movement. For unions that arose as organizations of militants, there are obvious contradictions in backing a presidential administration that attacks jobs and seeks to justify long delays in the payment of wages.

As small and relatively poor organizations, the "free" unions badly need the research, training and legal assistance the AFL-CIO can provide. Furnishing this help is the task of the Russian-American Foundation for Trade Union Research and Education, the only one of the AFL-CIO's initiatives in Russia that can be said, even in a highly qualified sense, to have played a useful and positive role. During the second half of last year, the foundation published four books, and began preparing

manuals on practical questions of union organization. It conducted training seminars, and lobbied the Russian press with articles and information putting the case of "free" unions involved in disputes.

Access to this assistance, however, has been limited to non-FNPR unions. The rigidity of this political apartheid is striking. A document explaining the activities of the foundation, for example, explains that its experts "write in local newspapers about violations of the rights of free trade unions." Presumably, the foundation's officials are unperturbed by attacks on the rights of unions which they do not consider "free."

Far more controversial has been the AFL-CIO funded Organizers program. This was set up not in order to help existing unions, but with the aim of founding new ones. Meanwhile, the prospective members of the new unions are almost all members of existing union bodies. As a concerted membership poaching operation, the program has drawn protests both from the FNPR and from "free" unions.

In Yekaterinburg in the Urals, a report by the head of the Organizers program states, "dozens" of new unions have been established. In the Komi Republic in the north of European Russia, the program has helped set up five new unions, as well as a regional "free" union association. The five organizers employed in the Komi Republic are paid salaries of as much as US\$400 a month. This is not a particularly large sum in the West, but very handsome earnings in Russia, where the top government salary—that of President Yeltsin—is currently worth \$290. Needless to say, going to work for the Organizers program is a tempting prospect for union activists on tiny wages.

Whether the AFL-CIO also helps with the salary bills of the "free" unions has not so far been independently confirmed, despite a wealth of rumors. Still, it is known that Moscow staffers of the "free" Independent Union of Miners (NPG) have continued receiving generous salaries during recent months when large numbers of rank and file union members have been close to starvation, their wages unpaid.

Are the AFL-CIO's operations in Russia proving successful, even in terms of their own—distinctly peculiar—set of goals and priorities? In at least two cases, these programs have fuelled extremely sharp disputes within "free" trade union circles, to

the point where any gains for the AFL-CIO and its strategies have probably been negated.

The major bone of discord has been the Organizers program, where hopes that the training and support of selected activists would help create a large and diverse social base for the "free" union movement have so far been illusory. To justify their salaries, the local organizers have to found unions, but it does not necessarily follow that these unions amount to more than small groups of friends and political associates of the organizers themselves. Meanwhile the Organizers program, as a favored recipient of US funding and a rising center of bureaucratic influence, has caused leaders of the "free" trade unions acute anxiety. This has been the case especially since staff members of the program, at a seminar late last year, decided to set up an Association of Free Trade Unions of Russia, which quickly attracted further funding from the AFL-CIO.

For Sotsprof, one of the more substantial and independently-based of the "free" trade unions, these developments were intolerable. Sotsprof leader Sergei Khramov wrote to AFL-CIO headquarters in Washington demanding the sacking of Organizers head Viktor Utkin. "Without any consultations with the leaders of the free Russian trade unions," Khramov's letter complains, Utkin "declared the founding of a new trade union federation involving no-one except a few staff members of his 'Organizers' program." According to Khramov, Utkin's actions and his possession of "a substantial grant" threatened the unity of "the real trade union movement" in Russia.

Khramov's letter also pointed to major problems within the Russian-American Foundation for Trade Union Research and Education. The Sotsprof leader called for the foundation to be reorganized under a new leadership based on the heads of the "free" trade unions. The foundation, he charged, was "preoccupied with internal squabbles and with distributing among [its] leaders funds assigned by the Americans as aid to the trade unions."

The problems besetting the AFL-CIO's programs, of course, have roots far deeper than the opportunism and venality of staffers and the rivalry of dependent unions fighting for the aid dollar. The basic obstacle faced by the AFL-CIO operatives in

— continued on page 9 —



## Testifying Against Company Unions

# "Labor Management Cooperation Has Damaged the UAW Beyond Recognition"

Our friend Bill Clinton, strikebreaker, right to worker and free trader is about to get us again by attempting to legalize company unions through his labor law reform committee. This committee of course, doesn't have anyone on it who has seen the inside of a factory mine or mill as a worker in several decades. It's headed by Harvard hotshot Robert Reich the Secretary of Labor who we wish had become a jockey instead of corporate shill.

The following is a transcript of testimony given to the Reich Commission On the Future of Worker/Management Relations January 5, 1994 by Elly Leary, National Co-Chair of the UAW New Directions Movement.

Leary was allowed to testify only after extensive negotiations with the Commission due to interference from the International UAW - the union that believes in democracy for everyone outside the UAW.

I'm a living example of the new world order of global competition. I used to be an auto assembler at the GM plant in Framingham, Massachusetts. I worked there from 1977 to August 1989 when the plant was closed and its work shifted to the new Flint: Ramos Arizpe, Mexico. In 1989, without overtime I was making nearly \$28,000 a year. Today, as a fulltime secretary at Boston University and member of UAW Local 2324, I make less than \$19,000. This lower standard of living hasn't been lost on my children. Several months ago my 14 year old daughter, angrily said, "Why can't you get a job like you used to have, one that pays a living wage?" Although I tell her to go to college, this Commission's own figures show this is no guarantee - incomes of college educated white males are falling too, calling into questions the high-skill, high-wage economy.

I'd like to address the mission of this Commission, but before I do, let me read a quote that accurately sums it up: (I'll tell you later who said it.)

"Until labor and capital join hands and recognize their interest is a common interest, that what hurts one, hurts the other, that what develops the well-being and prosperity of one must of necessity develop the well-being and prosperity of the

other there can be no progress."

In other words, Labor Management Cooperation (LMC) is a 'win-win' situation. Another theme heard constantly these days is that workplaces without LMC plans are war zones where nothing gets done. In contrast is the 'cooperative-competitive' workplace where calm, reason and consensus reign.

Neither picture is accurate.

My Union, the UAW is in the forefront of Labor-Management cooperation. Does anybody think that before the UAW entered into its new partnership with management that nothing got done, that no cars got built? Our contracts, then as now, set out the 'rules' for cooperation in the workplace.

Since jointness, the GM/UAW name for LMC, we've had a bunch of new rules. I'd like to report on the results from the shopfloor perspective. Let me be clear. This has not been the win-win situation we were promised. GM, its top brass, and a small section of union joint appointees have done well, while the majority of autoworkers have paid dearly. As we said at Framingham, "Cooperation means we give and they take." Let me explain:

Since 1979 (the last GM/UAW contract without a joint structure) workers' real pay has remained flat but CEO salaries (minus stock options and bonuses) has increased 107.1%. Since 1980 45% of GM hourly workers have lost their job but appointees with superseniority have a job as long as their plant remains open. Productivity has climbed dramatically - 105.2% between 1979-89 and 14% a year between 1989 and 1991. We're not 'working smarter', we're just working harder and faster. By 1989 Framingham jobs were so tight that a skilled operator didn't have time to retie a shoelace. Profit sharing was supposed to be our reward for this great leap forward in productivity. Our 10-year total is under \$2,000. Injury rates

have skyrocketed.

But jointness has damaged my union almost beyond recognition.

The 1982 contract reopener had the first jointness structures three national committees, two of which also operated at the local level. By the 1990 agreement GM and the UAW were 'fully integrated' with nine national level joint committees, 10 national subcommittees, eight local-level committees - one of which had three subcommittees reporting simultaneously to all three levels. None of the committees have any elected representation, nor are they accountable to the membership. Yet they make decisions that directly affect rank and filers: like where to put laid-off employees, limiting seniority

**Jointness has broken our union. Instead of power sharing we got power shifting, first from the rank and file to the union bureaucracy and from them to the corporation.**

**Elly Leary  
UAW-NDM**

rights and re-assigning/adding work to fellow union members. This entire juggernaut is financed by corporate overtime penalties which were supposed to limit overtime and save jobs. Instead, we got fewer and fewer workers working harder, faster and more overtime, while the union leadership got more appointees to feed their bureaucracy, not the assembly line. This explains why the union leadership likes jointness so much.

My committeeperson told me point blank, "We don't file grievances anymore." Grievances can end up with an outside arbitrator if the sides can't agree, or if management doesn't follow through. Now, the union is totally dependent on management's 'good will' to get things done for members. In the final analysis it means the only things that ever get acted upon are those that management wants to do in the first place.

There are not so subtle ways that our union's independent agenda has been snuffed in favor of 'securing GM's market position' One has been union acquiescence while GM closes U.S. plants and invests like crazy in Mexico where GM is now the largest private employer with over 56,000 workers. In the case of

Framingham's closing no grievance was filed even though the 'idling' clearly violated the contract. We had academics, lawyers and think tank folks from Detroit to DC agree with us. Only the small town of Ypsilanti, Michigan has stood up to GM.

We get to lay out work areas but the size of the workforce has already been decided. We get to decide whether we're hung or shot.

Individual workers and members' rights need to be protected and expanded: joint decisions need to be voted on and all representatives need to be directly elected.

If the current passion for LMC continues, my fear is that our labor movement well resemble the company unions that covered 93% of steel workers in the early 1930's. Already jointness has broken our union. Instead of power sharing we got power shifting, first from the rank and file to the union bureaucracy and from them to the corporation.

I remember when belonging to a union meant job and financial security and having an organized voice that actively fought for the good of the majority, not the corporate bottom line. If we followed the corporate agenda as we are being asked to do today, we would never have gotten social security, unemployment insurance, the eight-hour day or indeed, a decent standard of living for working people. We need 8(a)(2) more than ever.

By the way, do any of you know the author of that quote about cooperation being a win-win situation? John D. Rockefeller said it in 1915 when he inaugurated that granddaddy of all company unions, the Colorado Industrial Plan at the Ludlow mines, just weeks after the massacre of women and children of striking miners.

Thanks for the above script to *The Ford Worker*, a newsletter from New Directions Movement in the UAW. Subscriptions are only \$10 and are available from:

**The Ford Worker  
59 Battle Creek Place  
St Paul, MN 55119**

## AFL-CIO: Doing the Bosses Work in Russia

— from page 8 —

Russia is the fact that their whole approach to trade unionism--that of subordinating labor struggles to "social partnership," and of constructing bureaucratically-run pro-business unions in which real rank-and-file democracy is stifled--is useless for defending workers. It has been useless in the United States, and it is proving doubly useless in the far harsher conditions of Russia.

To rank and file unionists demanding serious action to win the payment of wages and protection against inflation, the US laboremissaries habitually reply with warnings that (to quote Bradley's leaflet) "the old communist unions still exist and are still powerful, controlling vast assets and resources, and are seeking a return to power." When pinned down on economic questions, the AFL-CIO representatives can do little more than mumble assurances that privatization and the market, as preached by Gaidar and the International Monetary Fund, will soon begin working their magic.

Not even Russia's capitalists, by and large, believe this line any more. Among workers, the response is overwhelmingly scornful. Nevertheless, the leaders of "free" trade unions are very reluctant to break with the AFL-CIO's strategies. Such a shift would raise serious questions of why these unions remain in isolation from the broad trade union movement. Also, one cannot

help suspecting that at least some of these union leaders have personal material interests at stake.

It should come as no surprise that the "free" trade union movement is now suffering from extreme internal tensions. These were clearly visible during the weeks leading up to the massive coal industry strike on March 1. Rank and file pressure forced an obviously reluctant NPG leadership in Moscow to support this action, which was initiated by the FNPR coal industry union. But the NPG leaders drew the line at endorsing the demand, raised widely by miners' strike committees, that the government resign and that Yeltsin call early presidential elections. The local NPG organization in the Vorkuta coal basin in the far north of European Russia then adopted a motion of no confidence in the all-Russian leadership, and for some time the "free" coal union was reputedly on the verge of splitting.

The fact of outside support for a rival union movement, however small and ineffectual that movement might be, has arguably forced the FNPR apparatus to accept reforms and lead struggles it would otherwise have shunned. Ironically, the net impact of the AFL-CIO's blunderings has probably been to present Yeltsin with a more active and resolute labor opposition than he would otherwise have faced.

It would be wrong, however, to regard the AFL-CIO intervention in Russia as perversely beneficial despite the intentions

of those who mounted it. To the extent that Russian workers have reacted against the AFL-CIO's presence and activities, the currents in the labor movement that have mainly benefitted have not been those of the "civilized left"--which remains small and weak--but of the anti-Yeltsin ultra-nationalist right.

During January, for example, the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Russia, a small formation headed by nationalist ideologue Alexander Alekseev, won publicity with a declaration calling for a boycott of "the AFL-CIO teachers from across the ocean, whose actions are intended to harm the national interests of Russia." The declaration denounced "'trade union' activity in which the workers, instead of fighting for their rights, adhere blindly to the course of American policies in our country, that is, close their eyes to Gaidar-style 'liberalization,' to mass sackings and factory closures."

Neither Alekseev's union organization nor his "National-Social Party of Workers of Russia" are significant players on the Russian political stage. But it is disturbing to note that the AFL-CIO programs in Russia provide a good deal of unintended ammunition that could readily be used by larger and more dangerous ultra-nationalist currents.

So far, however, few Russians are aware that the US government via the AFL-CIO is mounting a political intervention in their country's labor movement.

The impact of the AFL-CIO's activities in Russia remains almost negligible, largely because the cold war manias of the AFL-CIO leadership have prevented its operatives in Russia from moving in on the country's mass labor organization, the FNPR, where they might have done real damage.

Nevertheless, the interests of labor activists in the US have definitely been harmed by what the AFL-CIO leadership is doing in Russia. Among large numbers of Russian worker activists, the American unions now have a foul reputation for attempting to suborn union leaders, to split and demobilize the Russian labor movement, and to subordinate it to government policies that have already brought large numbers of workers to hunger and destitution.

Ideally, the AFL-CIO would reject its US government funding --which comes at unacceptable political cost -- and restructure its operations in Russia on a more modest basis, offering practical help with research, training, organization and legal matters to any labor movement organization that approached it. But with the AFL-CIO leadership as it is, and changes in the near future unlikely, labor activists in the US might well decide that the best way they can help their Russian counterparts is to demand that the AFL-CIO shut down its operations in Russia entirely.

3068 words



# Molly Maguire & Ned Ludd

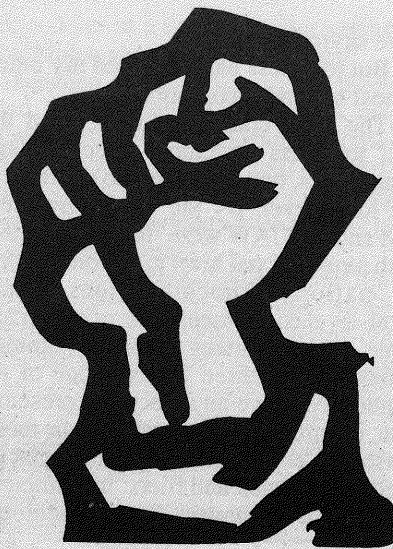
## readers stories of direct action

### What is a Hiccup Strike?

US labor law acts to restrict the rights of working people and protects bosses with the power of the police, the courts and the military. The hiccup strike is a tactic to subvert this unfair system.

Whether you are concerned with unfair working conditions, bad pay, lack of respect for your work, or you wish express solidarity with fellow workers striking at another place of work, this form of strike can be a very effective tactic.

Workers understand their jobs better than any bosses, and all workers know how to perform their jobs in a way to create the greatest amount of trouble for their bosses. In a hiccup strike, without any advance warning, at random times workers do their jobs wrong for very short periods in ways which cannot be traced to any individual worker. This can range from misfiling and misplacing things, to



not performing a critical task on an assembly line. After the end of the work period, the hiccup strike is announced by means of an anonymous call. This makes bosses expend considerable effort, after the fact, to undo the effects of the strike, forcing bosses to give in to the demands of strikers. A carefully thought out hiccup strike can continue effectively for months causing tremendous costs for a company.

The advantages of hiccup striking is that it is anonymous, it is very hard to prevent and does not require a great deal of organization to be effective.

Remember:

- 1) Don't give any advance warning!
- 2) Don't do anything which can be traced to you or any fellow worker!
- 3) If the heat is on, lay off the strike. If bosses have to invest in prolonged security to prevent the strike, you have won a victory. Once, things get lax you can start again.
- 4) Let your boss know only after the work day is over that a strike took place. The less you tell them, the more effective the strike.
- 5) Don't discuss a hiccup strike with anyone you don't have to. The less anyone knows the more effective the strike.
- 6) Don't discuss hiccup strikes with your Union (unless your union is the IWW). Hiccup strikes are not covered by labor law, and they can't help you.

Thanks to Philadelphia GMB.

#### READERS:

Please send your stories of work place adventures in direct action:

Molly & Ned  
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!! VIVA LA CAUSA !!

## Employee Assistance Programs

# Drug War at Work

Today I witnessed one of the final acts in a man's 26 year long relationship with GM. He was struggling to get unemployment benefits. GM fired him for being Absent without leave on May 5 of 1993. The man, John Adson, by name has had no income for nearly 6 months.

The question before this administrative law proceeding was, why were you absent John, and does your absence amount to misconduct. 26 years of a mans life flushed down the toilet. Caught up in the ruin of his own personal life, combined with the grind and misery of assembly line work, John turned first to alcohol, and then cocaine. He new he was in bad shape, so he turned himself into the EAP (employee assistance program) in an attempt to get help in getting him self together. Well when you turn yourself into the EAP, you are letting the company know that you have a "substance abuse problem".

Well anyone with a modicum of work experience knows what the boss is going to do with the knowledge that you have a "drug problem". They are going to watch your every move like a hawk, and in general try to find a way to get you removed from the work place.

John, was fucked up on drugs at the end of April of 93, no doubt about it. He knew it. He was aware that he had lost what little control he had had over his life, and was contemplating exercising what little control he still maintained over his assistance. He was thinking of suicide. A common enough thought among the powerless, combined with his drinking and cocaine, the thought had the real potential of being acted out. John, sought help. He got himself into a psychiatric hospital in an attempt to deal with his depression.

Four days in the loony bin were 4 days of no call, no show at the GM engine foundry where he had spent the last quarter century. Johns, home life, included a "crazy aunt", who is a chronic alcoholic. Article 64(c) of the UAW contract with GM requires that GM send a telegram notifying any AWOL worker that they have 3 days to get back to work, or GM will consider them to have quite. When John got out of the psych hospital he attempted to act on their

advice. He was told to get admitted to drug rehab clinic. For 3 days he struggled to find an institution that had bed space.

No one had room for him. Despite his suicidal depression, and drug dependency he knew he had to get his ass back to work. He showed up for his 3rd. shift laborers job at the Livonia foundry, and was told he had been terminated because he had not responded to the Article 64(c) telegram. It turns out that Johns aunt had signed for the telegram and then never bothered to tell him about it.

When John attempted to make his case before the bright young corporate executive from the plants labor relations department, and show him the medical documentation for his absence, he was told it is irrelevant. If you've got a problem with the discharge, go see your union committeeman. John, did that, and the union is pursuing his grievance on a number of grounds. The primary one being GMs failure to provide the UAW with notice of the Article 64 (c) telegram within 24 hours of it being sent. The union had been denied the ability to try to get John, back to work within the three days the telegram required.

John, will probably be denied his unemployment benefits. After all the state works for GM. If by some statistical law of averages he is granted benefits, it will only come after nearly 8 months without income.

Its pretty clear to this written, that John, was set up to be discharged once he had joined the EAP. The bright young corporate goon from labor relations, explained how on a weekly basis they reviewed attendance records and other personal problems with the EAP. There is no attempt at confidentiality between the companies EAP, and those whose job it is to weed out "bad" employees. The failure to notify the union of the 64(c) telegram, is undoubtedly part of a general strategy to deny union support to workers who are "druggies".

Major employers everywhere are instituting Employee Assistance Programs. If you want to keep from being targeted by the company, stay away from them.

Mark Kaufmann



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# Teamsters Strike

— from page 1 —

& FBI director William Webster, sits atop the Teamsters; and *Time* magazine publicizes FBI files of a Mafia informant alleging Mob connections to Carey.

From the trucking companies point of view the Teamsters must look ripe for defeat. The "long strike" tactic completely drains the union and if a couple of small, marginally capitalized trucking firms are hurt by the strike, so much the better for the big ones which will pick up the remains. Union capitulation to mediation gives the companies an opportunity to "implement the final offer" and negotiate from there. For the union leaders it may provide some image of militance and some excuse that "the government made us do it" when concessions are signed.

What other tactics could the Teamsters use? The Flight Attendants believe the public supported their Thanksgiving weekend strike because they spent three months leading up to the strike educating others through informational picketing. The much larger Teamsters could get the news out even broader. Do the Teamsters have anything to lose by trying?

Imagine how well mini-strikes of a couple hours a day would tie up the interstate highway system. An inside strike — slowing things down on the job in warehouses, terminals, and on the road — would have hurt profits, while maintaining wages and not spending strike funds. 1,400,000 fellow Teamsters out for short solidarity strikes could help.

US labor law prohibits solidarity. Economic solidarity tactics are banned. We need creative ways to express solidarity that avoid, escape and fly in the face of "legal limits" of solidarity. A strike that spreads through all less than truckload carriers, through all trucking, all transportation, and all affected industries would succeed. Top down reform is more of the same old stuff. Militant, "illegal" solidarity will have to come from the rank and file.

For members of the Teamsters and the other "big unions" what is there to lose?

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# THE RANK & FILE UNION!



# IWW

## Preamble to the IWW Constitution

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

As amended January 1992. Accept no imitations.

***because capitalism cannot be reformed***

**Yes! It's time to join the IWW!**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ JOB \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/PROV \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I affirm that I am a worker & not an employer.  
☐ I agree to abide by the constitution & regulations of this organization.  
☐ I will study its principles & make myself acquainted with its purposes.

**NEW MEMBERS** will be put in touch with nearby Wobblies. A portion of dues pays for a subscription to the *Industrial Worker*.

**Sliding dues scale:** monthly take home pay under \$800, dues = \$3; \$800 to \$1700 pay dues = \$9; over \$1700 month dues = \$12. Initiation = one month dues.

**TO JOIN:** Mail this form with payment for initiation & at least one month dues to:

**IWW**  
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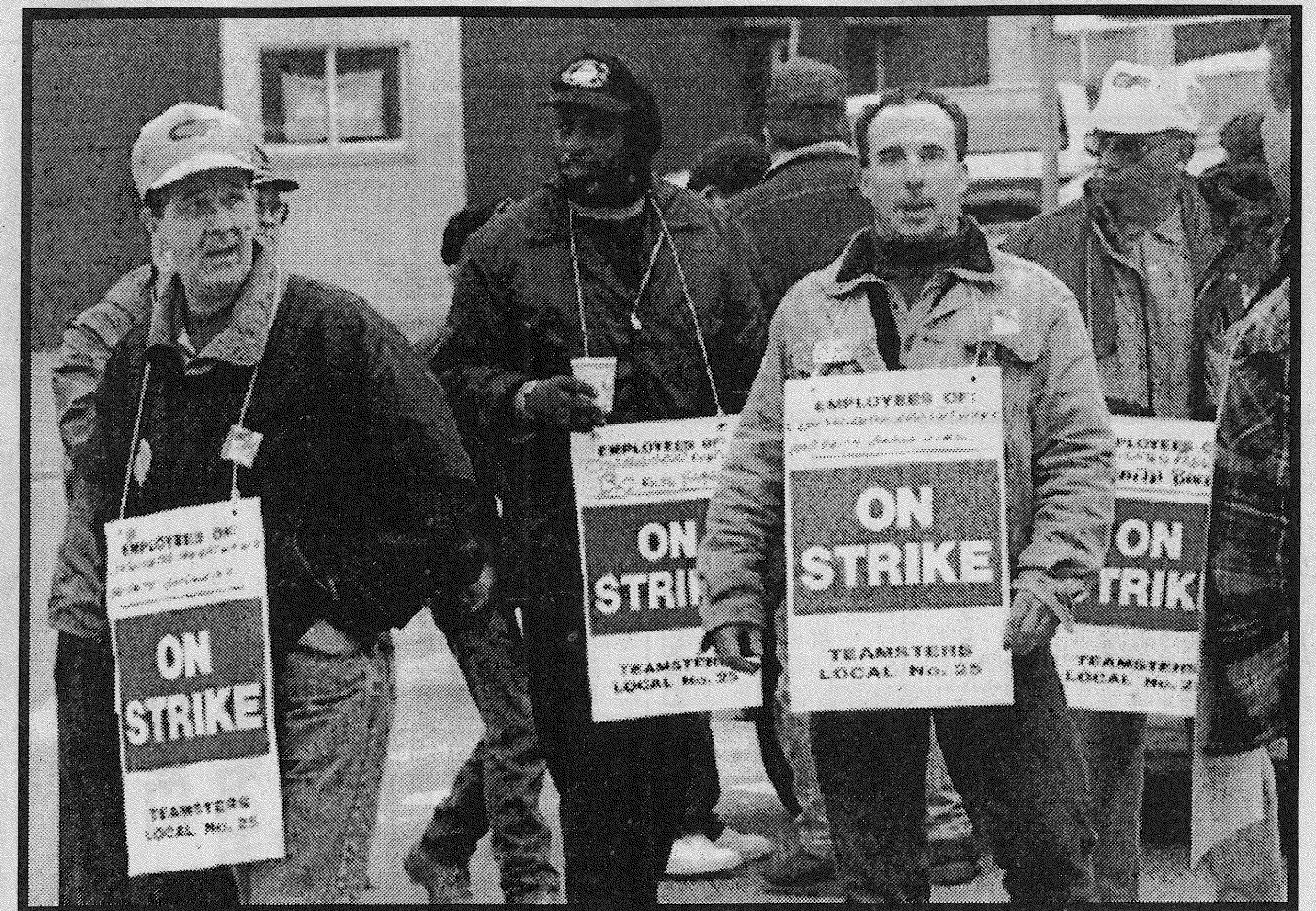
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